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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2012

**MORE THAN 4,000 PEOPLE SIGN PETITION  
AGAINST ARRIVAL OF SUPERMARKET, BUT...**

## 'Is this democracy?' ask Park Crescent residents as store gets go ahead

**PARK CRESCENT** shopkeepers in Barry say they are devastated that Sainsbury's is being allowed to move into the former Torque Tools premises.

More than 4,000 people signed a petition last year against the supermarket chain being allowed to move into the area.

They had argued that the arrival of the grocery giant would damage the prospects of the small businesses already serving the local population.

Parents of pupils attending Romilly Primary School had also claimed that Park Crescent was already a

busy road that could do without the distraction of vehicles and customers visiting a new supermarket.

Vale planning councillors rejected the proposals put forward by Sainsbury's, but the Welsh Government's Planning Inspectorate backed the company.

Coun Janice Charles, who led the campaign against Sainsbury's, had predicted last year that if local planning councillors turned down the application as she hoped, a decision in Cardiff might reverse matters.

Last week, she was proved right.

Coun Charles told The GEM: "When I heard of the Planning

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

Inspectorate's decision, I was so upset. I printed off the conclusion straightaway and went down to let local business people know the news.

"What do we have to do to get the Welsh Government to listen to us?"

"Where is the democracy, when local people express their views, councillors consider them and agree - and those opinions are then overturned?"

"There are businesses that have been in Park Crescent for 40 years. Family businesses mean an investment in the Vale economy, because they spend locally and may have local suppliers.

"What will Sainsbury's do in terms of the local economy?"

Coun Charles said she feared that unless there was some sort of legal challenge available, which would require funding, it looked like the end of the road for the campaign to block Sainsbury's.

Diane Christoforato, who owns Park Crescent Bakery, insisted: "I think it is terrible that a supermarket will be moving in opposite the school. There will be an increase in traffic.

"There's no doubt it will affect a number of businesses, too. The Government says it is in favour of helping small businesses, but then allows supermarkets into areas which damage the smaller concerns."

Diane is hoping Sainsbury's doesn't duplicate what she offers local shoppers, because otherwise she might be forced

to close. Mr Jaymesh Patel, whose family own the store next to the Torque Tools site, has similar fears.

"It is unfair competition. How do you compete against a major supermarket?"

"There will be a danger of us closing. Residents are not happy. There has been talk of staging a protest.

"There are enough supermarkets in Barry. We don't need any more!"

**'BITTER RESULT'**  
Mrs Niki Antoniou, who works in a newsagents along Park Crescent, added: "People are angry about this. It will make it very difficult for local shops."

Vale AM Jane Hutt, who supported the arguments made by local campaigners, described it as "a bitter result".

She said: "I was very disappointed to hear that Sainsbury's had won its appeal to locate a store on Park Crescent - alongside one of the busiest roundabouts and thoroughfares in Barry."

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 5)



The Rotary Club of Barry organised the 'Youth Speaks' competition in the town. The winning junior team are pictured here with president David Ball. For the full story, please turn to page 18.

## 'New Adizone is great, but needs to be made safer'

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

A new Adizone has opened on Barry Island, but one Barry Island resident - while praising the Vale Council for an impressive new facility - believes action should be taken to make it safer.

Barrie Evans, who has lived on the Island for 25 years, told The GEM: "January 26 saw the opening of the new Adizone open air gymnasium complex on Paget Road.

"It is a unique attraction for the area and is a fantastic addition to it."

Mr Evans said that before the construction of the outdoor exercise facility, he had been sceptical about how worthwhile it would be, but admits he was wrong to pre-judge the project.

However, he said there was a dangerous feature of the facility that he had drawn to the attention of council officials.

"The problem is they have installed a ramp alongside the complex. It does not have any safety barrier to stop young children falling off and possibly being seriously injured."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



ABOVE: Mr Evans is concerned that there are no protective barriers on the ramp and has even seen youngsters walking along a two foot ledge in the park, with a drop of eight feet below to the tarmac.

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## Barry Island plans

PLANS are being considered this week for a development at Barry Island Pleasure Park. The proposals envisage 124 flats, a care home, retail units and a cinema.

Cinema campaigners hope a multiplex screen company will be part of the facility. For more on this story, turn to page 17.

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## Exploding myth of sea mines in dock

**I**WRITE in reference to a letter in The GEM on January 19, containing a mention of my name, by Mr Christopher Short, concerning sea mines landing in the Barry dock area (No 1 and 2 Docks).

May I allay Mr Short's fears of being blown to bits?

He stated the town should be evacuated because a German wartime mine landed in the No 2 Dock near Rank's flour mill and sank into deep mud.

One exploded near the north basin gates, and another landed and exploded on the walls of the graving dry docks between two ships, SS *Highwood* and SS *Jamaica Planter*.

Both ships were severely damaged, after taking the full impact of 1,259 lbs of high explosive. Sadly, the first mate on SS *Highwood* was killed on watch duty in July 1941.

Around 1999, a Barry Dock tug boat dropped its anchor in No 2 Dock for some reason. Before the crew of the tug boat decided to pull the

anchor back in, they noticed a large cylindrical object around seven feet long and three feet wide.

One side of the anchor had dug itself deep into the steel casing of the acoustic sea mine and the tug's crew tried to prise it off the anchor.

All I can say is that they were very lucky to remain alive. Acoustic sea mines have five booby traps built into them to stop any enemy investigation. God was really with them that day!

Eventually, the crew realised what it was and the Royal Navy bomb disposal team was called from Plymouth.

The mine was taken out of the dock via the Windsor Locks area; demolishing charges were attached to the mine in deep water off Sully Island and it was blown up.

Mr Short can now sleep well in his bed, knowing everything is safe in Barry No 2 Dock – after over 50 years, the mine has gone!

The tug's crew were very brave indeed, and all sailors had a national medal award.

**George Hortop, Barry.**

## PRIVATE SECTOR CLINICS FLAW

**I**T appears that Andrew Lansley, the Secretary of State for Health, is proposing that private sector clinics be allowed to 'sub-contract' work from the NHS.

This may or may not be a good idea – but, according to the article, he is not going to insist on their having professional indemnity insurance.

Such a policy will leave those using the clinics at risk if they fail to carry out an operation properly, in exactly the same way that the recent problems over private-sector breast implants

has left people suffering and unable to get compensation, or leaving the taxpayer to pay through the NHS.

There is an old infantry officers' joke about the cavalry officer who was so stupid, even the others noticed.

If it was only a matter of changing this to "the politician who was so stupid..." it would not be a problem, but if implemented, this policy will leave everyone at risk.

I do think that everyone should apply whatever pressure they can on the Government to get this insane policy changed.

**Gavin Davies Penmark**

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know your views on any issues affecting your community - email us at [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)

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## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

# Readers' Letters

**We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!**

**We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.**

## 'Councillors need time to digest Development Plan' – SAYS PLAID GROUP LEADER

**A**S LEADER, I write on behalf of the Plaid Cymru group on the Vale Council to inform the public of the totally unacceptable manner in which the Local Development Deposit Plan (LDP) was examined at the extraordinary full council meeting on January 25.

The meeting was specifically arranged to consider the LDP and yet many councillors had not been provided with a copy in advance, and had not been able to read its contents.

Also, significant amendments to the deposit plan, involving housing allocations and settlement

boundaries, were tabled at the meeting, with no opportunity to consider or discuss the implications.

The LDP process is one of the most important functions of local government as it provides the strategy for future land use and development, including settlement boundaries, new housing etc, from 2011 to 2026.

Openness, transparency and fairness have been identified by the council as key principles underlying member development. How can the Conservative-controlled council promote such principles and yet behave in this way?

Why the unseemly rush? All members should have been briefed thoroughly before making a decision.

As to the substance of the deposit plan, many questions can be raised. Of particular significance is the transport infrastructure involving connections between Barry, Dinas Powys, Penarth and Cardiff.

What is proposed is completely inadequate to deal with the traffic increase that will arise from the planned housing development.

Over 5,000 new dwellings will be created including Barry (3,052); Penarth (600); Sully (650); Dinas Powys (400) and Llandough (170). The traffic pressures on Dinas Powys and the Penarth road junctions at the Merry Harrier and Baron's Court will be intense and impact on a road system that is working at maximum capacity for an increasing period of the day as it is.

Congestion, pollution, quality of life and road safety will deteriorate even further.

The deposit plan states that "local highway and junction improvements" will be sufficient to deal with the extra traffic. We reject this claim.

Such an increase in traffic movements should not be sanctioned without a Dinas Powys by-pass and associated development at Merrie Harrier and Baron's Court.

Unlike the existing Unitary Development Plan, there is no reference to a by-pass in the deposit plan and this is unacceptable.

There are also other important issues which need to be addressed including variation in affordable housing ratios and the status of Green wedges. In view of its importance, more time is needed to digest and reflect on the content of the deposit plan.

**Coun Margaret Randall, Dinas Powys.**

## 'SO MUCH FOR DEMOCRACY'

**S**O THERE WE ARE! Despite over 4,500 signatures of people opposed to the location of a Sainsbury's store in Park Crescent, Barry, as well as the opposition of planning committee members of the Vale Council to the proposal, the Planning Inspectorate has given the go-ahead for the scheme, without allowing anyone the opportunity to represent our views.

So much for democracy! "Local opposition is not of itself a sufficient reason to refuse planning permission" – in other words, what local

people want, is of no importance.

I'm sick of hearing stories of these giant supermarkets always having their own way against the wishes of the rest of us.

I, for one, will never set foot in that Sainsbury's store and will continue to use the existing shops in the Crescent.

I hope the other 4,449 or so people who signed the petition follow my example.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if people power managed to close it down?

**Norman Pereira, Barry.**

## Lord Haw-Haw's Barry connection

**I**READ with interest the recent GEM letter from Mr B Kirke of Barry, asking if I am correct in stating that Lord Haw-Haw (William Joyce) lived in Newlands Street, Barry – as his information is that he may have lived at 49 Bassett Street.

I am certain he lived in Newlands Street, and I do know the house number. He may well also have moved around and lived in Bassett Street, and he also frequented a house in Clive Road, Barry Island.

Why did he do this? Simple – he and others were under surveillance by both SB (Special Branch) and MI5 as possible – in the pre-war years – security risks. As a spy for the Abwehr,

he moved around to different addresses.

Sir Oswald Mosley and Diana, his wife, as leading Fascist Blackshirts, were both jailed under Regulation 18(b) of the Defence of the Realm Regulations after war started, as security risks.

William Joyce was by then, in Germany.

Regarding Barry Town Hall clock, I did comment in my original article that a broadcast by William Joyce from wartime Berlin, mentioned that one clock face showed a different time (two minutes slower) from the other.

This was correct, a fact he had observed when a Barry resident.

He used this to indicate that his information on other subjects was correct – it wasn't.

**Christopher Short, Barry.**

## Personal reminder of Barry oil spill



**I**WAS very interested to read Mr Idris Michael's memories of the 1970 incident which caused an oil spill on Whitmore Bay.

My late father, Ken Miles, was Mayor of Barry Borough Council at that time, and the photo (above) shows him inspecting the beach, following the averting of the disaster.

With him is the Secretary of State for Wales (and later Speaker of the House of Commons) George Thomas MP. Sue Bowyer Barry Island

### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 9)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
02 Thur	00.45	7.3	13.33	7.2
03 Fri	02.18	7.5	15.07	7.5
04 Sat	03.41	7.8	16.11	8.0
05 Sun	04.34	8.2	17.01	8.4
06 Mon	05.12	8.8	17.42	9.1
07 Tues	05.53	9.3	18.22	9.4
08 Wed	06.36	9.9	19.01	9.8
09 Thur	07.17	10.1	19.39	10.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

# Baruc ward town councillors are disappointed at 'lost objection'

BARUC ward councillors say they still have reservations about revised plans to develop the Pleasure Park on Barry Island and can't understand why the chair of the planning committee decided to withdraw the town council's objection to them.

In 2009, town councillors voiced objections to the Vale Council on the grounds that there would be problems with the traffic.

The application is for around half of the fun-fair site to be developed as 124 one and two bedroom flats, together with a 60-room care home, with the remaining half allocated for shops and leisure, including a cinema.

Coun Steffan Wiliam said: "We would like to thank all the residents who took the time to tell us their thoughts."

"Generally, while people are supportive of developing the site for

## REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

leisure and tourism, there are very strong concerns regarding the residential and care home element.

"I recommended that the council reiterate its objection to the plans as they stand, for the same reason as before: namely, that the second road to the island must be built first - but also that the number of residential properties is unsustainable and that the location of a care home there is thoroughly unsuitable for the area."

Coun Wiliam insisted: "The economic rejuvenation of the island would be hindered by this element of the scheme."

"It's also unfair to place elderly and mentally infirm people in the middle of all this."

Fellow Plaid councillor Shirley Hodges explained:

"The town council planning committee were asked their opinion of this outline application in 2009 and raised an objection due

to concerns over traffic. "The Vale Council has asked our opinion again on the revised plans."

"Unfortunately, the planning Chair, Coun Keith Lewis, decided to deal with this himself rather than put the application before the whole of the town council planning committee and he decided to withdraw the objection on behalf of the town council."

Coun Hodges said she was very disappointed by his action:

"I considered there was enough time for this important application to go to the whole committee and for us to hear the views of the public."

"I've never known a planning Chair to act in such a reckless way."

Coun Hodges added: "Therefore, I will be writing to the Vale myself raising the concerns of the local residents."

## 'CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS'

Coun Keith Lewis said he rejected Coun Hodges' remarks and explained that he had dealt with the matter under 'chairman's actions'.

He explained: "It is Barry Town Council's planning committee procedure that if we cannot get the town council's observations in before the Vale planning committee's requested date - and as

this application came in on January 12 and our comments were needed by February 2 - the matter was dealt with under 'Chairman's Actions'.

"There was a resolution to the application which was agreed by Coun Stefan Wiliam, who was standing in for Coun Shirley Hodges, and agreed by other members who were present on that day."

"The resolution pointed out that Barry Town Council had concerns that a second access route to the Island was a priority."

"It also said the council wished to express concern at the scale of the residential units proposed and the appropriateness of a care home at the location."

"The resolution requested that the Vale's planning committee should make a site visit before making a decision on the application."

Coun Lewis also stressed that the council's resolution insisted that consent should be subject to work being done within a "reasonable time framework", that there should be a cinema, that visitor attractions should be created within early phases of the project, and that funding should be used on the immediate area to enhance its appeal.

## Rhoose ward surgery

**COUNCILLORS** Jeff James and Gordon Kemp will be holding one of their regular Rhoose Ward advice surgeries this Saturday (February 4) at Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose, from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment necessary. For further information, call 01446 710690.

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Vale Mayor Coun John Clifford with the winners and their entries.

## Race Equality First calendar award-winners

VALE Mayor Coun John Clifford is pictured with children who won a prize in the Race Equality First calendar competition.

The county library, Barry is displaying the winning pictures as part of the council's commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day.

The winners are: Joe Elias (Sully Primary School); Zoe Cannon (Bryn Hafren Comprehensive); Karys Hudson (St Cyres); Joya Sims (All Saints Church in Wales); Aliyah Parry (Cadoxton Nursery) and Jonah James (St Andrews Church in Wales).

## Labour choice for Iltyd ward

THE Vale Labour Party has announced its candidates for Barry's Iltyd ward in the 2012 council elections.

They are town councillor Howard Hamilton, mayor of Barry in 2009; Rhona Probert, a caseworker for Jane Huft AM and volunteer worker; and John Drysdale, director of a Wales-wide housing and community organisation.

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# Bryan's trek to Grand Canyon is a 'thank you' to Penarth hospice

A local magician is to walk one of the world's great natural features – the Grand Canyon – to raise funds for the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth, because of the outstanding care it provided for his mother-in-law in her final weeks.

Bryan Gunton (38) says the trek is a case of "getting to Las Vegas the hard way".

He told THE GEM: "It will involve five days of trekking through selected parts of the Grand Canyon."

"To take part in the trek, I have to raise a minimum sponsorship of £3,100. I have chosen to pay for the cost of the trek myself – so all sponsorship will go to the

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

Marie Curie hospice at Penarth.

"Following the trek, we aim to have a celebration meal in Las Vegas."

The hospice, formerly known as Holme Tower, holds a special place in the hearts of Bryan and his wife Helen, because of the way the staff supported the family in their hour of greatest need.

He explained: "In September last year, my very special wife completed a charity trek along the Great Wall of China after her mother died of cancer."

"Because of the wonderful Marie Curie nurses, my mother-in-law was able to spend her last weeks at home, surrounded by family and

friends.

"It is because of this experience that I want to show my thanks and give support to this amazing charity – to ensure other families are able to receive a similar service and are able to care for their loved ones at home at the end of their life."

"We have adopted the charity as our family cause."

It costs £3.9 million a year to run the Marie Curie hospice at Penarth. The care and support given to patients at the hospice and their families is provided free of charge and the charity depends on the support of the public to help fund its services.

Bryan, who lives in Llantwit Major, will embark upon his trek in October, but in the meantime, he and Helen are also organising events closer to home.

"On February 17, we have organised a 'Vintage Vegas' fundraising night at the Vale Hotel, Hensol. Tickets are £45 each and include arrival drinks, a three course meal, live entertainment including vocalist James Williams, a close up magician, a casino, a raffle and an auction."

"The raffle and auction include a luxury night away in west Wales and sports memorabilia among other great prizes. We still have tickets available."

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets, should contact Bryan on 07843 529 502, or e-mail him at [info@bryangunton.co.uk](mailto:info@bryangunton.co.uk)

Alternatively, if you are unable to attend this event, but would like to support Bryan, please go to:

[www.justgiving.com/bryangunton](http://www.justgiving.com/bryangunton) where you can make a donation.

## MP says new broadband will help businesses

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

**DIFFERENT parts of Barry and the Vale are getting broadband upgrades in the near future – although speeds look set to continue to vary from area to area for some time yet.**

Cowbridge looks like being first in the queue this April when BT starts rolling out a new super-fast broadband service.

The news has been welcomed by Vale MP Alun Cairns, who has long campaigned for better broadband in the Vale.

The new BT service promises a speed of 20 megabits per second (Mbps) – a speed that will make a considerable difference to businesses in the town.

One IT manager in Cowbridge told THE GEM: "At the moment, we are supposed to be getting seven or eight Mbps, but in practice we get about five."

"Even if the promised 20 turns out to be more like 15, that will still be three times faster than now."

Mr Cairns said that it was planned that 130,000 homes and businesses in Wales will have access to faster broadband by this summer.

Cowbridge, however, will be one of the first communities to be upgraded and should

receive the better capacity broadband by April 2012.

A total of 33 Welsh communities are included in the latest roll-out plans for BT's next generation broadband service, delivered over copper lines.

Mr Cairns has been campaigning for better broadband services across the Vale for the last 18 months, and has already seen Barry, Llantwit Major and more recently the village of Colwynville be supported by a fibre-optic broadband service.

Fibre-optic is the fastest service available at the moment, but Mr Cairns welcomed the faster copper-based system that is being introduced.

Alun Cairns MP said: "At a time of economic uncertainty I'm sure these improvements will provide a big boost for Cowbridge businesses and offer many additional educational and entertainment opportunities for local residents in the town and nearby villages."

"I will however continue to push for fibre-optic broadband infrastructure for all areas in the future, as part of the £56m broadband investment for Wales, announced by the UK government in 2011."

## Student's cake break for Daniel Cwch fund



10 PH at Bryn Hafren school recently held a cake break and raffle, in aid of the Daniel Cwch Fund. The fundraising is part of their voluntary work for their Welsh Baccalaureate.

It was the first of several events that staff and pupils will be involved in to raise money for this very worthwhile cause.

## Dog fouling at park

THE newly-formed Treharne Residents Group in Barry has asked the Vale Council to put up signs to stop dog fouling at Iolo Park.

"The Council has taken on board the request and will now install new signage and bins at the recently-opened park, in a bid to curb the problem. This item is to be further discussed at the group's next meeting on February 23," reported local councillor Richard Bertin.

## Make new friends at La Leche League...

**WHETHER you are a pregnant woman looking for more information or already breastfeeding a little one, La Leche League (LLL) of Dinas Powys is a great place to make friends, have a cuppa and learn more about breastfeeding.**

With a brilliant lending library, toys for babies/toddlers and accredited LLL Leaders (breastfeeding counsellors) at every meeting, pregnant

and breastfeeding mothers will find Cardiff and the East Vale's local LLL group a supportive, friendly place.

The group meets on the first Friday of the month (in term time) at 10am-12 noon in St Mary's Church Hall, Edith Road, Dinas Powys.

The next meeting is this Friday, February 3. The hall is easily accessible from Dinas Powys rail station and local bus links, and there's plenty of free parking.

Local contact, Lisa on 07935 226047; [llofdinaspowys.blogspot.com](mailto:llofdinaspowys.blogspot.com); or national helpline 08451 202918.

## Mike's VIP trip on the Goodyear blimp

WHEN Mike Wilcock saw the cigar-shaped Goodyear airship travelling above his house in Cowbridge, his first thought was, "How can I get a flight in it?"

"No chance", he was told when he rang Cardiff Airport. "I'm a photographer", he argued, with the result that he was offered one of only three passenger seats and the chance to video some unique and unfamiliar views of the city centre and the outlying areas.

When the crew let go of the moorings, the pilot turned on the blimp's ear-splitting engines and they flew above the A48, following the road to Culverhouse Cross,

down over Ely and Fairwater to the city centre, then back via Penarth and Barry to the airport.

From the airship, which goes at a maximum of 53mph to a height of 1,500ft, Mike photographed the whole journey and will be showing the video, together with other film to members of Penarth Aviation Society at their meeting on Friday (February 3).

Penarth Aviation Society meets at 7.45pm at the Penarth Conservative Club on the first Friday of each month.

Contact the hon secretary David Ephraim, on 01446 721321 for more details about the society.

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# A tribute to Derek Bryer and all his 'unforgettable' work

THE campaigning organisation, Pride in Barry, has paid tribute to its former chairman, Mr Derek Bryer, who passed away last week.

Derek was chairman of Pride In Barry from 1995 to 2003.

He was instrumental in representing Pride In Barry in the early years of Barry regeneration, forging a role in working with the Barry Action Partnership, and Welsh Development Agency in representing community views.

He had a large involvement in the establishment and management of the Vale of Glamorgan Steam Railway Company project.

by PAUL HALEY,  
Chairman  
of Pride in Barry

I met Derek around 1998 when he was keen to get the Barry Chamber of Trade involved in Pride In Barry.

Derek almost acted as my mentor and gave me extremely good advice on how to influence the key players.

We built up a good relationship, as Derek had used those influencing skills on me and I joined Pride In Barry in 1999.

Derek continued to introduce me to many of the key Barry Regeneration people and we went on various trips around the country to

see examples of successful projects.

We lobbied the then new Welsh Assembly for transitional money when Barry lost its Objective-2 status.

Derek brought a diplomatic gravitas and many other skills to his role, which were honed from years as the managing director of a major brewery.

He was persuasive, influential, tactical, tenacious and knew exactly when to raise the stakes and be direct – and his charm was that he always let you know that his heart was in the right place.

Derek was a man to be listened to and whose views were highly sought.

He decided to step down as chairman to

look after his elderly father in September 2003 and he, along with the late great Gareth Howe, asked me to take over – how could anyone refuse such a splendid double act?

He was always on hand to offer advice when I asked, but I remember him saying that he would give me plenty of space and not turn up for meetings.

We were delighted when Derek came as a guest to our 'Blue Plaque' launch evening at The Memorial Hall in 2009, which he was thrilled to see.

Derek had been unwell for a while and in Llandough Hospital. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

We send our condolences and good wishes to his family and remember with grateful thanks the unforgettable work that he did for Barry and Pride in Barry.



LEFT: Eyesore – most of the ramps have been defaced with graffiti.

## Knap skaters 'annoyed' by the sprayed graffiti

A skater who uses the Richard Taylor Skateboard Park at the Knap has contacted The GEM to express his anger

that graffiti was sprayed over the ramps and to reassure the community that it was not 'the work' of regular users.

Scott Wilcox said he was "extremely

annoyed" by the appearance of the phrases in huge white capital letters.

He said: "As an old friend of Richard Taylor and a local skater I am absolutely disgusted that somebody would have the lack of respect and vandalise something that was built in somebody's memory."

"The park is very popular and most users try to keep it as clean as possible."

Scott emphasised: "We would like to advise the public that the regular users are in no way responsible for the vandalism!"

## PEOPLE WILL WELCOME LABOUR'S NEW U-TURN

I AM extremely pleased to hear that Labour have finally changed their minds over the future of Cemetery Approach.

This is excellent news because they now join the rest of us councillors in wanting to save this lovely tree lined avenue leading to Barry Cemetery.

I will never forget being one of only two Labour members at that time on the planning committee, who voted against this ridiculous idea and supported the 10,000 plus Barry people who didn't want it to happen – I listened at the time and I am now glad that Labour has finally come round, too.

While still in the Labour Party at that time, I can remember being frowned upon by the leader and the ruling clique, who came up with the usual stuff 'That Bertin is a maverick, he's a loose cannon' and so on, but at least I stood by our people.

This u-turn will certainly be welcomed by the people of Barry who campaigned to save it.

So I am glad Labour has finally changed its mind, but I have got to wonder if it really is about them trying to win Dyfan ward at the forthcoming election!

COUN RICHARD BERTIN,  
(Court Ward, Barry).

## Safety plea on Adizone



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Evans said he had seen children as young as about seven or eight years old, walking along a narrow ledge that runs at right angles to the ramp.

"The ledge is about 21 to 24 inches wide and I'd estimate the drop at about eight feet.

"Already children have been running the length of the ledge unsupervised despite the obvious danger," he said.

Mr Evans also said a boundary wall is in a poor state of repair, crumbling in places and leaning slightly to the ramp which adds to his concern.

He says he has pointed out his concerns to council officials and hopes barriers will be erected in the facility to make it safer for children, and until that is done he believes there should be supervision.

At the time of going to press, The GEM had not received a response from the Vale Council.

## Sainsbury's is coming

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She added: "I support local residents in their opposition to the plans and met with the Sainsbury's store chiefs last year to impress upon them the strength of feeling against their proposals.

"This is a bitter result for local businesses, residents and campaigners."

In the Planning Inspectorate's decision, the planning inspector said: "I have concluded that the proposed development would not have an unacceptable effect on highway safety or the free flow of traffic, or on local residents' living conditions."

"No other harmful effects have been identified, and there would be

substantial benefits in terms of the character, the appearance of the area, economic development, job opportunities, and the vitality, viability and attractiveness of the Park Crescent local centre."

Sainsbury's spokesman Tom Trenchard said: "We are pleased that the proposed Sainsbury's Local in Barry was approved last week."

"The inspector recognised that the convenience store will increase footfall and enhance the overall vitality, viability and attractiveness of the area."

"We are now progressing with our plans to open the store, which will create up to 25 full and part time jobs."

## Traffic issues on Trinity Street

I WAS disappointed to hear of the decision by the Vale Council not to proceed with the proposed traffic calming measures in Trinity Street.

I have lived in this street for nearly 25 years, and after prolonged campaigning by the residents and our local councillor, finally thought we were going to see an end to the dreadful traffic problems that we have to endure on a daily basis.

These problems have got progressively worse over the years, particularly after the success of

Gavin and Stacey, which has increased the amount of traffic and visitors to the street.

While I am not a car owner, I have had, on a number of occasions, the embarrassment of seeing visitors' cars being dented and scraped by passing vehicles.

I have written to the chairman of the planning committee, asking him to explain why this decision has been made, and the reasons behind it.

In the meantime, any support you can give us through your paper would be very much appreciated.

Mrs Linda Callow,  
Barry.

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'Modern day genocides show human race has not learnt from the past'

## 'Blue Line' exhibition remembers Holocaust

MEMBERS of the Vale Council cabinet and other dignitaries assembled at Barry's Art Central gallery for a preview of this year's Holocaust Memorial exhibition, 'Blue Line'.

The month-long show, which opened to the public on January 25, features work from conflict and war artists Nicola Tucker and Maciej Hoffman, a spokeswoman reports.

Cardiff-based Tucker and Hoffman, from Wracław, Poland, each brought their own interpretation of the theme, in their first full exhibition together in Wales.

Mayor of the Vale, Coun John Clifford, was among 50 people at the gallery in King Square, along with the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Dr

Peter Beck, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Roger Thomas, Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp and cabinet member Coun Anthony Ernest.

Coun Kemp said: "This was a very thought-provoking exhibition and exemplifies why it is important to remember the events of the Holocaust."

He spoke about atrocities and genocides that have taken place over hundreds of years and are still taking place today, highlighting the fact that the human race still hasn't learnt from past mistakes and showing the importance of this exhibition.

Artist Nicola Tucker's sculptural installations include 'Thread of Hope' with its fibre optic, luminous light shaft and arrow work suspend-



Maciej Hoffman and Nicola Tucker with the barbed wire chair.

ed, capturing time and space and the striking 'Red Cross' - created specifically for the Barry exhibition.

She spoke to the assembled guests about the works on display and thanked the council on behalf of Maciej Hoffman and herself for being able to show their work in the gallery.

Arts development officer, Tracey Harding, said: "Maciej Hoffman's work, 'Reverse Perspective' and Wire Chair caused a flurry of interest.

"The visitors wanted to know why the

barbed wire chair was there."

Translating through his wife, Sylwia, Hoffman said: "The chair represents an uncomfortable seat, to encourage you to have empathy for the people who died in the Holocaust, who are portrayed in the painting. You see their faces looking out from behind a barbed wire fence."

The exhibition can be seen at Art Central gallery, King Square, Barry until Saturday February 25, Tuesdays to Saturdays, between 10am and 4pm.

## Councillors claim vital Vale planning document was 'rushed through'

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

OPPOSITION councillors on the Vale Council say they had insufficient time to study the Local Development Plan's 'deposit plan' before the ruling party put it through for consultation.

At a fractious meeting of the Vale Council on January 25, some councillors claimed they hadn't had a proper chance to look at the details of the 234 page document before the debate.

The deposit plan could form the basis of what happens to Vale planning over a 15-year period.

Labour councillor Neil Moore moved for a deferment, to give members more time to digest the full details of the plan.

Coun Moore said: "All the opposition councillors voted for the deferment, all the Conservatives voted to move the document forward."

He said opposition members had been left "annoyed, frustrated and gobsmacked" at the arrogance of the ruling party: "They were just not prepared to listen."

He insisted that although members who had requested hard copies got one, it was not good enough for the council to claim it was saving paper by not sending them out to everyone.

He believed it was so important to the Vale's future that all councillors should have been sent a copy.

Coun Moore stressed that he had huge reservations about the document, such as why some candidate sites had been chosen and others hadn't; and why some areas, such as Weycock Cross and Culverhouse Cross had gone outside the Unitary Development Plan boundaries.

"They've driven a coach and horses through the UDP, without giving proper justification for what they're doing."

"There was no briefing on it, as there has been in the past, and no opportunity to amend the document."

Coun Moore added that maps weren't even attached to documents, and his fear was that the principles had now been set for the future.

Coun Gwyn John of

Llantwit Major First Independents told The GEM that the cabinet member for planning and transportation, Coun Jeff James had voiced strong support for the document: "Coun James said it was a good plan and that he was delighted with it."

"The problem was that many councillors hadn't had the opportunity to see it. "One hard copy was left in the members' room and it was put on the website on the cabinet section, rather than planning."

Coun John said the importance of the document is such that all the councillors should have been given a hard copy well before the meeting.

"I like to read through a document and be able to highlight points or problems to be raised," he explained.

'BRIEFING'

Coun Margaret Randall, of Plaid Cymru, said she believed that Coun James had shown a "cavalier attitude" to members other than those in the Vale cabinet and that it was being rushed through.

She said: "In Coun James's words, it is one of the most important documents that the council has to deal with."

"The council sends out other documents in a hard copy form, so why

couldn't they have done it in this case?"

"At the council meeting, I asked for a briefing for members, but was turned down."

A council officer did offer a briefing but that was after the vote had been taken.

Coun Randall said she was concerned that with 4,800 houses designated for Dinas Powys, Barry, Sully, Penarth, and Llandough, the road network would not be able to accommodate all the extra vehicles.

"The infrastructure will not cope - the Merrie Harrier junction and the Baron's Court are operating at their limit."

She said these sorts of matters should have been discussed properly by members before the document went out to consultation.

'EXHIBITIONS'

But the Vale Council insisted that an electronic version of the plan and maps had been available online since before Christmas - on December 23, a full month before the council meeting.

Coun Jeff James explained: "On the night of the council meeting, to discuss and decide the LDP, there were members who said they did not have copies of the document, but many of these same members

were quoting sections of it.

"It was available in complete detail - maps and background information - in the members' room and on the website."

"Indeed, where councillors had requested hard copies, they had been provided with them."

Coun James said that following the meeting, some members had made requests for copies and those had been sent out to them.

He said: "The council's own policy to save paper calls for reports and agendas to be sent out via email and be placed on the website."

"The council's decision to approve the LDP triggers a period of six weeks of consultation, including exhibitions, so the members and public will be able to engage in the whole process."

Coun James added: "I suspect that it is easier to say they do not have all the information rather than put the time into conducting an in-depth study and come up with proposals."

Vale residents will now be given an opportunity to make their views known, and following that, a report will be prepared for the Vale cabinet.

It then goes for consideration to the Planning Inspectorate.

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**Applications should be returned to the address given below by or before Thursday 1st March 2012.**

Mr C Lewis  
Town Clerk  
Council Offices  
7 Gladstone Road  
Barry  
CF62 8NA

**VALEWAYS**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3** at 10.30am, 'Around the Dragon's Den' walk, starting at the Visitor Centre, Cosmeston Country Park.

Sunday, February 5 at 2.30pm, 'Hidden Vale - Wick Circular', starting at Wick village shop (SS 923723).

# Social services reform will underline commitment to the needy

## HOW FUNDING CAN GIVE THE VULNERABLE A BETTER DEAL

**T**HERE is a great opportunity for us to make a difference in the Welsh Government by developing policies, allocating funding and passing laws which can improve the lives of people and communities in Wales.

We can do a great deal more now than in the early days of the Assembly.

We have more powers, more confidence and greater experience about the improvements we can make to the social and economic fabric of Wales.

We also have partners in local government, the

NHS, business and the voluntary sector who are working with us to help make a difference in these challenging times.

Last week, the Local Government and Communities Minister, Carl Sargeant AM, said: "For this Government, delivering reform is about: collaboration; simplification and accountability."

"Collaboration is necessary across all of our public services, between our councils, Local Health Boards, the police, fire and rescue services to deliver for the public."

We are now rolling out a series of consultation papers about new laws for Wales including the Social Services Bill to protect the vulnera-

ble, safeguard children and set standards for the delivery of social care.

Gwenda Thomas AM, the Deputy Minister for Social Services launched this Bill in the Senedd, making it clear that we will be defining social services in a way that starts with a commitment to people in need and that will be active in identifying that need intervening at an early stage.

She said: "We are not prepared to sit by as fewer and fewer people receive the support they need."

"We will require local government to understand the dimensions and shape of the population in need in their areas, to make this public and to have the powers to make arrangements to provide a range of services to meet those needs."

In line with the message from Carl Sargeant, the Minister went on to say that the changes that would be made through this new Bill will require new ways of working, reducing regulation and bureaucracy so that social services can focus on addressing and responding to needs. She reminded

### ASSEMBLY NOTES



by **Vale AM JANE HUTT**  
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

Assembly Members that the foundation for these changes has been the protection of social services budgets.

This goes back to the priorities we set in our budget following the UK Government cuts in 2010, to protect social services with an extra £10 million allocated to local government for social services across Wales.

There was widespread support for this statement from the Minister in the Chamber as she has worked hard to gain cross party support which has borne fruit.

Her announcement that the Bill will simpli-

fy arrangements in relation to adoption by placing a duty on all 22 local authorities to require them to come together to set up a single adoption agency was widely welcomed.

We are also considering the Housing and Regeneration Minister's policy paper on 'Meeting the Housing Challenge' to prepare for the Housing Bill later in the spring.

This is vitally important as we face growing housing need in our families and communities.

As Finance Minister, I have been able to lever in further funding for the social housing grant which will help build new affordable homes in Wales.

In the late 1960s there was a BBC film called 'Cathy Come Home' about a homeless family walking the streets.

This led to the setting up of Shelter, the Campaign for the homeless which is working hard to support people in housing need across Wales.

Shelter inspired me to train as a social worker and led me into the voluntary sector and into

politics.

*Now I have the opportunity to help deliver on my lifelong goals and principles – to support and empower the vulnerable for a better deal in life – through the funding we allocate, the policies we adopt, and the laws we make here in Wales.*

### Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Friday (February 3) at Trinity Church Hall, Barry, from 4pm to 6pm. No appointment is necessary.

### Councillors' surgery

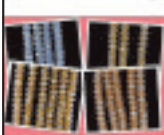
LABOUR councillors for Castletand ward, Barry, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake and Karl Kuhnell will be holding an advice surgery on Saturday, February 4 between 10.30am and 12pm in the Castletand Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Residents are asked to note the change of location for the surgery. No appointment necessary. Contact Chris Elmore on 07867 506 116, or 01446 402 220.

### Rummage sale

THERE will be a rummage sale in the Lesser Hall, All Saints Church, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, February 4 from 10am until 11.30am. Entry 50p to include tea/coffee. All proceeds to charity.

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## VALE MP's VIEWPOINT GAS DRILLING IS 'INAPPROPRIATE'

**I** WAS disappointed to learn that Coastal Oil and Gas, the company behind a controversial gas drilling scheme in Llandow, is appealing the Vale Council's rejection of its plans to the Welsh Government.

Back in October 2010, councillors in the Vale of Glamorgan unanimously rejected an application to test drill for shale gas in the county.

The decision was a terrific result and a huge success for The Vale Says No campaigners, residents, businesses and local politicians, who all actively voiced their concerns and lodged their objections to the gas exploration planning application.

The appeal has been made to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the site at Llandow.

Coastal Oil and Gas had the option of dealing with the appeal through written representations to the Planning Inspectorate, but has chosen instead to opt for a public inquiry. No date has been set as yet for the inquiry.

In the meantime, to make sure our concerns are heard, it's essential for local residents and businesses to submit their representations and



**Vale MP Alun Cairns** reports to GEM readers

opinions with Welsh Government's Planning Inspectorate ([www.planning-portal.gov.uk](http://www.planning-portal.gov.uk)) as soon as possible.

All comments must be lodged by the February 14, or risk not being seen and considered by the inspector.

In its crudest terms, the original planning application could have been described as a bid to merely dig a hole on the business estate in Llandow.

However, this was simply not the case. I believe that the location is wholly inappropriate, based on the plans and aspirations of the community for the area.

I find it difficult to believe that anyone would consider

such an activity in such a sensitive area. It is close to the Heritage Coast and abuts areas of Grade 1 agricultural land, very little of which exists across Wales.

Planning is a devolved matter and approval or rejection of any gas exploratory planning applications within Wales is defined as a responsibility for Welsh Government and the guidance they provide to local authorities.

The Vale is, so far, the only place in the UK where applications to test drill have been refused.

I do not believe that the exploration (and if found, the extraction of gas), will bring the promised jobs for local residents or maintain the wonderful heritage coastline and rural environment of the Vale.

To make a written representation, you can do so by following the link on [www.aluncairns.co.uk](http://www.aluncairns.co.uk), where I have also uploaded a generic letter opposing the appeal, or visit [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk).

Written comments must be submitted by February 14.

*I'd urge you all to make your personal representations if you have any concerns regarding the planning application.*

*I hope that local interests and concerns will outweigh national policy.*

## What's in your bin?

Tel: 01446 700111 Email: [visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

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- Advice on unexpected changes in our service for that week
- Service failures; such as vehicle breakdowns
- New service amendments such as additional materials we can recycle (recently clean foil, emptied aerosols and cartons such as tetra pak)
- Results; such as current recycling rates
- Adverse weather highways advice
- Road works that may affect your journey time in your area
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- Example text if you lived at house number 28 at the following postcode, you would send - **C1V visible CF5 6AA 28**
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## NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

## Speaker describes helping the helpless children in India

**OVER 25 years ago, our speaker, Mrs. Carol Evans, and her husband decided to take practical steps to tackle the great suffering caused by child poverty in south-east India.**

They had found conditions to be appalling for young children, who with their parents were in a cycle of deprivation and poverty.

The causes of this were two-fold. Many had worked on the land but had been badly affected by a lack of rain and climate change.

In this area, they also found that 70 per cent of the population were cultural and religious outcasts who believed, with the majority of the rest of the population, that their huge sufferings were caused by their 'past-life' experiences.

Carol and her husband set to radically improve matters wherever they could. They discovered that the local children

were largely employed in the match factories. In other areas, it was dangerous and badly-run firework factories.

It was common for the owners of these establishments to offer parents of young children money to enable them to purchase the basics of life, such as food.

Repayment would always be at extortionate rates that were impossible to pay back. Factory owners would then 'suggest' that payment could be made by letting their children come and work for a pittance, so that the debt could be worked off.

Carol also discovered that employers found it cheaper to employ little children than install machinery that could break down and involve installation costs.

Children could always be replaced with others. Our speaker emphasised that all this took place against a constitution that made such practices illegal. This always seemed to be ignored.

Carol found that, despite India's

increasing wealth, grinding poverty for the masses was the norm and corruption seemed to be endemic.

The shelter and support that the Evans' were able to provide for the children proved to be something of a miracle. Many youngsters condemned to be street urchins are now adult teachers, accountants and other professionals.

The home in Pooncholia houses 75 children, plus local adults devoted to their young charges. Members of the forum found this to be an inspiring talk that illustrated how determination and compassion had brought great changes in the lives of those who had previously had so little.

The forum meets today (February 2) at United Reformed Church, Barry at 10.30am. Alden Grindale will give a talk entitled 'Historical Walk - Barry'. For further information about the group, telephone 02920 594881.

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[www.bboxesandbusts.co.uk](http://www.bboxesandbusts.co.uk)

**Feb 2012 Beginners Workshop Schedule**

Beginners Wire Work  
Mon 6th Feb 6.30-9.30pm  
Tues 7th Feb-10am-1pm

Beginners Chain Maille  
Tues 7th Feb 6.30-9.30pm  
Wed 8th Feb-10am-1pm

Beginners Intro to Metal Clay  
Tues 14th Feb 6.30-9.30pm  
Wed 15th Feb-10am-1pm

The Basics of Jewellery Making  
Thurs 16th 2.30-4.30pm  
Thurs 16th 6.30-8.30pm

All workshops are inclusive of materials and use of tools. 10% off goods is also offered at the workshop for attendees

## Conservatory? Extension? Or the Best of Both?

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Vale Orangeries is run by husband and wife Dean and Leanne Edmonds. They specialise in building bespoke, luxurious Orangeries.

"We are both passionate about creating beautiful living spaces, and our range of orangeries are just that. Each build is completely bespoke, tailor made to our clients' specification," explains Leanne

Vale Orangeries have completed numerous orangery builds throughout south Wales with many showhomes available for private viewings.

"We offer a free consultation and design service and have various orangery builds available to view at our clients' homes. This is a unique opportunity to talk to our customers about their experience and see for yourselves the quality of our work."

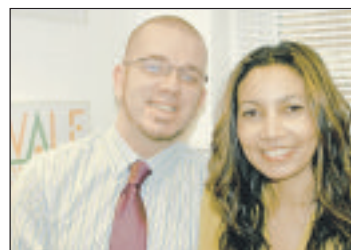
There are several design packages available, including bi-folding doors,

recessed lighting options, underfloor heating, home entertainment solutions and an interior design service to help with those all important finishing touches.

Dean explains, "Having a living space built to your specification is a dream for many, and a reality for our clients. We ensure the whole experience is enjoyable and stress free. There is no need to concern yourself with architects, planning or building control as this is all part of the package. The only planning we want you to worry about is where to put your sofa! - but we can even help with that too!"

For updates on current and previous builds, visit [www.valeorangeries.co.uk](http://www.valeorangeries.co.uk)

If you are thinking of an extension or conservatory, but want something different call Dean or Leanne on 01446 746353 to discuss how a Vale Orangeries orangery can work for the way you live.



## Extension? Conservatory? Or the best of both? The Modena Orangery Range by Vale Orangeries



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All images featured are genuine projects completed by Vale Orangeries.

# Out and About with The GEM

## CLOONEY ON FINE FORM IN TOUCHING COMEDY DRAMA

**H**AVING hit critical pay dirt with middle-aged buddy 'dramedy' *Sideways* in 2004, Alexander Payne could have easily taken the ball and run with it.

Instead, the writer/director took a sabbatical, and only now has he returned to the big screen directing George Clooney in a novel adaptation, *The Descendants*.

Clooney plays Matt King, a man who wants to sell a piece of land his family own in Hawaii.

However, when Matt's wife suffers a boating accident, he must look after his two daughters (Shailene Woodley and Amara Miller) and having played a small role in their lives, must reconnect with them and himself – all the while learning about what his wife has been doing behind his back.

For those who like their films with a degree of intelligence and humour, the absence of Alexander Payne from screens has no doubt been something of a disappointment – the writer/director managing to expertly mine the ennui of the middle-aged

American man in the likes of *Sideways* and *About Schmidt*.

*The Descendants* then, on the surface, appears to be very much in the Payne milieu, and as you would expect, he delivers a mesmerising film that draws excellent performances from its cast.

He manages to deliver an emotional piece of work that doesn't push the schmaltzy buttons too much (a fault of much of the awards season fare thus far).

The subject matter could have seen Payne simply recycle the notes of his previous works given how they cleave so close to his output.

However, by adapting from the source novel, Payne, who co-wrote the script along with Nat Faxon and Jim Rash, takes his eye for these types of characters and introduces new elements that enrich the film.

While there are moments of comedy, the film is more dramatic than you would expect.

The story of a man wrestling with a life-changing decision, along with upheaval in his personal life, have moments of realistic comedy, but, tempered by the naturalistic nature of the story, there are no easy answers for any of the

### SCREEN TALK



by  
**GARETH JAMIESON**

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characters, no Hollywood-style ways out.

Instead, the first person narrative plays it straight, and is all the better for it; Payne and co's screenplay balancing well.

His direction is superb as well, the beauty of Hawaii acting as a gorgeous backdrop to the familial strife that takes place, while Payne puts the concerns of the story first and foremost, the camera lingering on the characters and their responses rather than opting for fast cuts and clever editing.

Anchoring it all is an absolutely outstanding turn from George Clooney, who has rightly received acclaim for his performance.

While his best performances have often relied on his charm in tandem with strong acting (*Out of Sight*, *Michael Clayton*) here Clooney reins in the charm – instead delivering a straight turn, with an element of comedy, that ticks all the boxes.

It is possibly the actor's most naked turn yet (not literally, I'm afraid, ladies) and watching Clooney on such fine form is truly a

joy to watch.

Amidst the acclaim Clooney has received, the other performances in the film seem to have gone unfairly unnoticed.

Woodley and Miller are both incredibly good as Clooney's two daughters, the former a troubled teen failing to connect to an absent father, while the latter manages to inject humour as an old-beyond-her-years youngster that provides much laughter.

Throw in Nick Krause as the default comedy character Sid, a role expertly delivered by the actor who manages to throw in some pathos to what is an otherwise played-for-laughs character.

Touching smaller roles for Beau Bridges, the underrated Judy Greer (showing her skills in an unfamiliar straight performance) and Robert Forster, leaves a cast who manage not to put a foot wrong throughout.

While the story hardly reinvents the wheel, it is delivered with such class and skill that you don't mind.

The return of Alexander Payne to the director's chair, and a wonderful performance by George Clooney are enough to sate the appetite, as *The Descendants* makes for a truly superb viewing experience.

**VERDICT** – The first of the 'awards season' films to really deliver, *The Descendants* is an excellent film that captivates and amuses with no small degree of intelligence. Alexander Payne's return is one of form, while the performance he coaxes out of George Clooney sees the actor stripped of his charm but resulting in the finest performance of his career; all in all a huge success! *Highly recommended.*  
**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Sideways* (2004), *About Schmidt* (2002).

## Prizes to be won for school news projects!

**PRODUCING** a newspaper as a school project can be one of the best ways to develop a range of knowledge and skills in a fun way – and local secondary schools are among those being

offered prizes and the opportunity for local and national recognition to do just that.

The Glamorgan GEM is offering to work with a local school entering the competition by featuring the project in our

columns and arranging for students working on a newspaper project to see how their local newspaper is produced.

The Shine School Media Awards are designed to encourage teachers to build the production of a newsletter, newspaper or magazine into their programme, as an individual or team project; and the awards are open to all secondary-level schools in Wales and England.

Teachers may register interest on the [www.shine-schoolawards.org](http://www.shine-schoolawards.org) website, where full details of the awards are available.

Entries must be submitted by the end of March 2012, to qualify for judging in the

national competition. Chairman of the awards, Ian Locks, said: "The awards, now in their second year, are designed to encourage development of communication, writing and IT skills, provide experience of management and team work – and to encourage respect for copyright and a better understanding of the sustainability of paper products."

Prize money of £4,500 is on offer to the main winners and all shortlisted schools will be invited to an awards ceremony at Stationers' Hall (next to St Paul's Cathedral in London) on Monday, June 25, to receive their awards or certificates.

**WHAT'S ON**  
A NEW monthly 'pool circuits' fitness class is being launched at Barry Leisure Centre with a free taster session on Sunday, January 29, between 4pm and 5pm.

### Coming of the Light

ART 4 U is holding its annual 'Coming of the Light Celebration – A Walking Contemplation' on Sunday, February 5, from 4pm at the Knap Lake and Gardens, Barry (meet under the Lake shelters).

Contact: [art4u@wales.org.uk](mailto:art4u@wales.org.uk).

### Meet and greet

ST DONAT'S Arts Centre's newly-established theatre company welcomes anyone with a love of singing,

dancing, acting – or backstage work – to meet and greet on February 6 at 7pm. Contact Mike Peters on 01446 799100.

### Mayor's coffee

VALEPLUS, the Vale-based charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, is holding a coffee morning on Tuesday, February 7, between 10.30am and 12 noon.

It will be hosted by Coun John Clifford, Mayor of the Vale, in the Corporate Suite of the Civic Offices at Holton Road, Barry.

Tickets cost £1.50. There will be stalls including cakes, plants, books and NOVA, as well as a mystery prize game and a raffle. All are welcome.

## Festival seeks feedback from local traders

**COWBRIDGE** Food and Drink Festival has already kicked off the organising of this year's festival and, as usual, are keen for feedback and suggestions from businesses in the town.

Together with the Vale Council, the committee has compiled a questionnaire specifically targeting local businesses, to collate their views of the weekend and (hopefully) respond, to make this an even more beneficial weekend for town traders.

The questionnaire has already been circulated to many local businesses,

but copies can still be collected at the receptions of either The GEM or Cowbridge Town Hall.

John Davies, chair of the festival committee, explained: "It is important for us to work closely with the town's business people to make the entire Cowbridge experience positive."

"The festival was set up to showcase everything that the Cowbridge area offers throughout the year – and to encourage repeat visits."

"Therefore, we welcome the opportunity of working with local businesses to best highlight what they offer."

## Toy and train sale is a great day out

**THE first toy and train collectors' show of the new year in Barry takes place on Sunday, February 5, at Barry Leisure Centre in Greenwood Street, from 10.30am to 3pm.**

Top traders from all over Wales, as well as many from across the bridge, attend the Barry show and it has rapidly become established as a major event in south Wales.

It also complements the quarterly Cardiff toy and train sale held at Penarth Leisure Centre

at Cogan, which is operated by the same organisers.

The venue is well-known as a clean, warm and well-lit centre, with plenty of parking available and easy access.

A local caterer also operates within the show throughout the day, and offers a wide range of refreshments at reasonable prices.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Barry has come around again and all the traders and the patrons are looking forward to another great day out."

## Blood donor sessions

**THE Welsh Blood Service will be holding donor sessions in the area as follows:**

**February 7:** Bedwas Hall, Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry, 10am – 6pm.  
**February 13-14:** Llanwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road, Llanwit Major, 10am – 6pm.

**February 17:** Mobile Donation Clinic, Tesco Stores, Castle Street, Maesteg, 10.45am – 1.45pm and 3.15pm – 6.30pm.

Brackla Community Centre, The Triangle, Brackla, 10am – 6pm.

To view a comprehensive list of all blood donation sessions, please visit [www.welshblood.org.uk](http://www.welshblood.org.uk) or call 0800 252266.

## Chance for young dancers to mingle with Strictly stars

**A LOCAL school of dance is celebrating, after being asked to provide young dancers for a touring show featuring professional dancers from Strictly Come Dancing.**

Nerissa Usherwood, who runs the Vale School Of Dance, told The GEM: "We have been asked to perform with some of the BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing* professionals in an 'Evening with The Stars Of Strictly' at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on Wednesday, April 18.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to perform on stage with professionals."

"Children from nine years and above will be dancing two routines in the show."

"Our rehearsals get under way this month, and we are offering some young dancers the chance to be included in the show."

"They will need to attend The Celtic Community Hall, Celtic Way, Rhosee on Saturday, February 4, 11.30am–12.30pm to audition."

Anyone interested can contact Nerissa on 01446 774449, [valdanceandhealth@yoburibz.info](mailto:valdanceandhealth@yoburibz.info), or via [www.valeschoolofdanceandhealth.co.uk](http://www.valeschoolofdanceandhealth.co.uk)

## The Vale School of Dance

Cowbridge, Rhosee & St Athan  
Dancers between 9 & 23 years  
Audition to be held at  
The Celtic Community Centre, Rhosee  
Saturday, February 4th 11.30am  
THIS IS TO PERFORM WITH THE PROFESSIONALS FROM BBC'S STRICTLY COME DANCING at The Grand Pavilion Porthcawl  
Wednesday, April 18th

**AUDITION FOR STRICTLY**  
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# GRANT CUT THREATENS BUS SERVICES IN THE RURAL VALE

**SUBSIDISED bus services in the Vale could be hit after the Welsh Government slashed grant aid – a Vale Council cabinet member has claimed.**

The Vale Council's cabinet member for planning and transportation, Coun Jeffrey James, has written to the Welsh Government in the wake of a reduction of more than £123,000 in its Local Transport Services Grant (LTSG) – a drop of 27 per cent.

For the previous three years, the grant had been £445,000 (2009/10), £463,000 (2010/11) and £451,000 (2011/12), but it has now been reduced to £328,139.

The grant enables councils to pay for a range of transport initiatives, such as new community transport services, improving bus shelters and buying low-floor buses to improve accessibility.

In a letter to local government minister Carl Sergeant, Coun James said: "I have very serious concerns regarding our ability to continue to provide an appropriate level of local transport provision."

"We are currently concluding a bus service review for the council's area and this recent announcement means that it is inevitable that bus services will be reduced."

He pointed out that another grant, the Bus Service Operator's Grant (BSOG), had been cut by 25 per cent – five per cent more than in England, and said this would add to the problem.

Coun James said he feared bus providers would withdraw from tendering for routes, because their bids may now no longer be financially tenable.

He added: "The recent announcements will, without doubt, see a very visible and harmful

reduction in the levels of local bus services."

Mr Michael R. Fox, the general manager of Cartel Travel which operates from Llandow in the Vale, and provides bus runs between Barry, Llantwit Major, Bridgend and Cardiff, echoed Coun James's fears and claimed it could put many local routes in danger.

## REMOTELY COMMUNITIES

He said: "The cut in the LTSG will mean a reduction in subsidised services, especially in rural areas."

"BSOG in England has had a reduction but this has been spread over 18 months, rather than in eight weeks."

"It takes 56 days to amend or cancel a service, which means operators are having to make changes now."

"We have already cancelled a service and are looking at others to work out their sustainability given the current

## REPORT by GEM STAFF

fares."

Mr Fox pointed out that in England an incentive scheme had been running for a number of years which rewarded operators undertaking certain measures, such as running low emission buses and introducing tracking systems.

He stressed: "This scheme has never been available in Wales and is worth a maximum of 13

per cent over the standard BSOG rate."

"With this, it is possible for an English operator to get £0.3906 based on the new standard rate of 34.57p per litre in England."

"We introduced tracking, radios, and Smart card readers years ago and would have been entitled to a 10 per cent increase in BSOG if we were in England."

"We have been left

with the prospect of ending several marginal local routes which are relied upon by local residents in remote communities."

The Vale's MP, Alun Cairns, also expressed his fears that routes would be under threat.

"I can't understand why the Welsh Government are looking to introduce this substantial change to the Bus Service Operators Grant rebate at such short notice."

"I'm sure that many local bus operators will struggle to incorporate the reduction into their business plans and budgets from April this year."

He pointed out: "I'm concerned that this change in the BSOG could mean that we'll see an increase in fares but also a reduction in service levels."

"This would hit the Vale hard, as many routes through the rural areas were already under

threat from cutbacks and lack of investment over the last 12 months."

Mr Cairns added: "I hope that the Welsh Government will look at this issue again. This action will also increase the pressure on local authorities, making it more expensive for authorities to support socially necessary bus services and school services, as operators will face higher costs when operating contracts."

## Brynhill members vote in favour of housing scheme

**BRYNHILL Golf Club members have voted in favour of proceeding with the proposed sale of part of their course for houses to be built there.**

The vote took place at a private meeting last Thursday (January 26) which lasted two hours. Members questioned representatives of the housebuilder Redrow, and the golf course architects, Weller McEvoy, and highways consultants.

A vote was taken and a club member, who did not wish to be identified, told The GEM that on a show of hands, members were conclusively in favour, with the vote appearing to be around 65 per cent in favour, and 35 per cent against.

Before the meeting, Redrow representatives had indicated that, in the event of a yes vote, legal moves would then start to get the land included in the Vale Council's LDP as suitable for housing. The LDP has been issued in draft form (excluding Brynhill as a site for housing) and a period of consultation is about to start.

Redrow also said that more detailed plans would have to be prepared, dealing with issues such as drainage, ecology, soil and the exact number of houses that could be accommodated.

Last week, it was reported that, in the event of the house building going ahead, Brynhill would have a new clubhouse, a redesigned 18-hole course, and a surplus of £2 million.

The GEM understands that no decisions were taken on how the club would use that £2 million – although simply dividing it up between members seems to have been ruled out.

It was stressed, said the source, that the £2 million was not a guaranteed figure, because there were areas such as clubhouse design and the drainage of the course that still had to be costed in full.

## PENARTH SPRING FAIR

**THE Penarth fundraising group for Cancer Research UK will start their new fundraising year on February 4 with a spring fair.**

It will be held in the Paget Rooms, Penarth, at 10.15am–12 noon. Admission is 50p, including a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. There will be stalls of cakes/savouries, plants, preserves, white elephant, parcels/tombola and cards.

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# SIX NATIONS RUGBY

## 2012 FIXTURES



### ALL SET FOR THE BIG KICK-OFF! SEE PREVIEW ON BACK PAGE

Welsh rugby fans eagerly looking forward to the start of the Six Nations tournament this weekend, will have to wait until tomorrow for the starting line-up against Ireland in Dublin on Sunday.

Head coach Warren Gatland has delayed the announcement, in the hope that key injured trio Rhys Priestland, Jamie Roberts and Dan Lydiate, will be able to take the field for a crunch clash that both teams will be desperate to win – as they launch their bid for the 2012 title. (See back page)



PICTURES by HUW EVANS AGENCY

### INJURY CONCERNS

**RIGHT:** Jamie Roberts (on left) and Rhys Priestland sit out squad training, but they are being given every opportunity by Warren Gatland to reach match fitness and line up against Ireland on Sunday.



### SIX NATIONS TIMETABLE

Saturday, February 4, 2012

France v Italy, 14:30  
Scotland v England, 17:00

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Ireland v Wales, 15:00

Saturday, February 11, 2012

France v Ireland, 20:00  
Italy v England, 16:00

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Wales v Scotland, 15:00

Saturday, February 25, 2012

England v Wales, 16:00  
Ireland v Italy, 13:30

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Scotland v France, 15:00

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Ireland v Scotland, 17:00  
Wales v Italy, 14:30

Sunday, March 11, 2012

France v England, 15:00

Saturday, March 17, 2012

England v Ireland, 17:00  
Italy v Scotland, 12:30  
Wales v France, 14:45



ABOVE: Mike Phillips' control and power at scrum half could prove to be a vital factor in the game on Sunday.

ABOVE: In the blue bibs, Sam Warburton (left) and Toby Faletau will be key figures in the crucial breakdown battle against the street-wise Irish pack.

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## SIX NATIONS



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# MOVING OR

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That dream home might come in many forms. It could be a cottage in the country, a solid four-bedroom detached in a nice part of town, a penthouse apartment, or a rambling old property that you will transform into an elegant town house!

However, when times are tough, those dreams sometimes have to be put on hold for a few years, and it is time to take stock instead.

However, rather than dwelling on the negatives, this temporary pause can be a great chance to look at your present living space and perhaps give it a fresh look.

After all, well thought-out home improvements will give a twofold benefit – the sense of wellbeing induced by having that work done, and the knowledge that, when you do decide to move on, your efforts will be reflected in the selling price of your home.

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Experts have always argued that a good extension on a home will increase the value of it, and there are so many reasons nowadays for taking this step.

Families have to face the fact that it is not so easy for young people to get on the housing ladder, so children who in the past would have moved out as soon as they found their first job are now staying home longer while they save for a deposit.

A well-planned extension can give parents and children – well, young adults really – more space so that the family doesn't feel cramped and confined.

## Necessary maintenance

It makes for a more relaxed living environment and, of course, there is the financial benefit to come, if and when the house is sold.

Of course, not every house or flat is suitable for an extension, but a great deal can be done in

terms of redecoration and renovation.

It is a chance to do all that necessary maintenance, and at the same time indulge your creative side.

A new colour scheme, or new wallpaper and carpets can upgrade a room, making you feel good at the same time.

Perhaps when you moved in you felt that there were too many small rooms? This could be the chance to knock two into one and make a really expansive living space.

If your living room is looking good, perhaps it is the kitchen that is in need of a makeover?

Once again, living and cooking in a more modern kitchen can make life seem much easier. Again, it will pay off by increasing the value of your property – and make the cook in your family very happy!

No matter where you live, it is a rare homeowner who has no issues with his/her property.

There is always something that carries on niggling away because it just isn't right.

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# IMPROVING?

It might be the layout of the garden, the state of the bathroom, a lack of natural light in one room – it might even be something that no one else notices.

There won't be a better time to address these issues, and a successful solution to the problem can give a great deal of satisfaction.

Times are tough and money is tight – and sometimes you have to acknowledge that the grand design may have to be put on hold for a time.

However, that is no reason to sit back and do nothing. Whether you rely on an expert, or trust your own judgement, this could be the perfect time to improve your living space.

Life is full of stresses and strains, and home improvements can make a real difference to you and your family.

On these pages, The GEM has brought together a wide range of businesses – all local, and with the expertise to make your dreams a reality.

*Standing still is rarely a good thing. You may be staying put for a few years, but that doesn't mean you can't move forward!*



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# In Business Update

## Networking – Make it work for you today!

**V**WBN'S first speaker Marianne Pettifor, with 25 years' networking experience, will talk about how networking is changing.

She will address 'free of charge' and 'e' marketing as options for raising the profile of your business and gaining new business.

Come along and get some great tips from someone who has "been there" through thick and thin!

Marianne will also answer questions. So, put your thinking caps on and join us on Wednesday, February 15, at Bar 44, Cowbridge at 6.30pm; £10 non members, £5 members.

Please contact Rebecca to book; members@vwbn.org.uk

## Welcome to Balmoral Motorhome Hire!

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## Quality furniture venture a change of direction for couple

**H**USBAND and wife team, Gareth and Nicky Punter, spotted a gap in the market for quality furniture in top-notch materials such as pine and oak, and, above all, a personal service.

Their new enterprise, Home Comforts Furniture Warehouse, opened on February 1 and is based in the Vale, equidistant from Cowbridge and Bridgend.

Gareth, who previously worked for a UK-wide furniture company as a sales and marketing manager, and who is also a joiner by trade, knows a thing or two about bespoke furniture.

"Not everyone wants the impersonal, flat-pack experience," he explained. "Our aim is to provide a knowledgeable service for our customers. We'll go the extra mile and measure up for the customer at home to ensure the piece they want is suitable."

"In my experience, many stores sell low-calibre furniture at high prices. Ours is beautifully made, all the pine being made to order and finished by hand by British craftsmen."

"The oak is all solid and of the highest quality, fantastic to look at and keenly priced. We have divided the

warehouse up into room sets so people can get a feel for how it will look in situ.

"We also have a range of beautiful accessories, so our customers can re-create the look at home, without needing to shop elsewhere."

The Parlance quality accessories are replenished on a regular basis and updated to run with current trends.

Gareth and Nicky, a former NHS training manager, have many years' experience in the furniture trade between them, and are keen to point out that their new enterprise plugs the gaps left by other businesses.

Richard, the store manager, is keen to get the business up and running and is enthusiastic about the future:

"The furniture is beautiful, well made and total quality," he said.

In addition to private homes, their furniture and accessories would suit boutique and country house hotels, high-quality holiday lets, and landlords wanting to let furnished properties in the executive market.

Home Comforts Furniture Warehouse, Unit 4b, West Winds Business Park, Llangan, Vale of Glamorgan CF35 5DR. Tel: 01656 861120; please visit our website: [www.homecomfortsfw.co.uk](http://www.homecomfortsfw.co.uk)

**W**OULD you like to take your home comforts on holiday with you? Go where you and your family want to go – no set meal times or itinerary? Get up and go when you want, where you want!

Balmoral Motorhomes, based in Bridgend, mid-way between Cardiff and Swansea, offers a hire service for luxury motorhomes. Find us just off junction 35 of the M4.

A spokesman explained: "We only use new 2012 registered camper vans. We have four or six berth motorhomes now available for that special holiday."

"They are fully equipped and insured for drivers over 25 years old, complete with radio/CD, and flat screen TV/DVD player."

For our new 'hire' facility, or for new and used motorhomes or caravans for sale, call 01656 858289 – or visit us alongside Nathaniel Car Sales, Bridgend Industrial Estate, CF31 3SA.

## Bridgend law firm achieves Lexcel Quality Standard



The Lexcel certificate is handed over by Wayne Williams of cpm21.

**D**P LAW LTD (David Prosser & Co), the well-known Bridgend law firm, were presented with the Law Society Lexcel Excellent

Quality Standard recently.

To achieve the standard, a legal practice must undergo a rigorous check by an independent auditing organisation against the Lexcel Quality Standard.

"Achieving Lexcel accreditation reinforces our commitment to providing high-quality legal services tailored to client needs," said Diane Bishop, practice manager.

"We have held a Specialist Quality Mark for quite some time, which is the Legal Services Commission quality standard, but this only applied to our publicly-funded departments."

"Lexcel applies to all areas of the practice and demonstrates our continued focus – striving for excellent customer service at highly competitive fees," Simon Thomas, director, commented.



## Massive clearance at Full Independence

**F**ULL INDEPENDENCE currently has

a massive stock clearance sale, with all in-stock scooters, stairlifts, Rise

Recline chairs and daily living aids all reduced by up to 70 per cent.

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We are also taking bookings on all garden adaptations and if you book your garden adaptation with us you can receive a £200 instore gift voucher (terms and conditions apply).

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## In Business Update

### Continental photographers Format 35 extend their client base

**C**ONTINENTAL wedding photographers, Format 35, have now extended their client base into the Vale and surrounding areas.

Young award-winning photographer, Miro Cik, offers a professional service for weddings, portraits and commercial work.

Please contact Miro to discuss your requirements in the comfort of your own home.

To ensure that your occasion is memorable for all the right reasons, call Miro on 07432 594 820.

Please visit the website [www.format35.co.uk](http://www.format35.co.uk) to sample the quality of his work and for an indication of his price structure.



## Councillor replies

### 'YOU HAVE TO BE THERE TO REMEMBER IT!'

**COUN** Katherine Kemp has recently claimed that she was surprised at the Labour Party pledge to review and reinstate a mobile library service.

Labour Members put a motion to a Vale Council meeting on September 28, 2010, to reinstate the mobile library service, but it was defeated by the ruling Conservative group.

She also claims that I did not object to such a proposed cut when I was on the budget working group at the time.

Actually, I and others did question the proposed cuts to the mobile library and the proposed closure of village libraries, including Wenvoe, Sully and St Athan.

We requested more detailed information on the numbers of people using them, and what effect such cuts would have on the services.

That was supposed to be reported back to the group, but it was not. Therefore, at one

of the final meetings, the group recommended the deferral of those and other cuts – in order to obtain further information – as none had been supplied.

Coun Kemp did not recall it, because she was not at that meeting!

Also, when this budget working group reported back to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny no further details were supplied.

This time, the proposed savings were simply listed as a 'Review of Library Provision and Structure', without clarifying what was being proposed.

The cut to the mobile library was subsequently made by the Conservative cabinet.

There are no surprises, just facts. Coun Neil Moore, Barry (Leader of the Labour group on the Vale County Borough Council)

## Firefighters' Atlantic rowing marathon takes total of 46 days

**TWO** south Wales firefighters, who aim to raise tens of thousands of pounds for a host of charities, completed their Atlantic rowing marathon in 45 days, 19 hours and 21 minutes.

John Haskell and Jamie Windsor travelled 2,615 nautical miles from the Canary Isles to Barbados, and the money raised will go to Help for Heroes, Breast Cancer Care, The Firefighters Charity and WRVS.

The duo rowed the entire distance totally unsupported in a 'Woodvale Pairs' class boat that was designed specifically for the race

but measures a mere 23 feet long by 6 feet wide.

Huw Jakeway, the acting chief fire officer of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service said: "This was an incredible and gruelling challenge that has raised a lot of money for some very worth while charities."

Coun Anthony Ernest added: "On behalf of the whole of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, we would like to say how proud we are of John and Jamie – and big congratulations to them both on an outstanding achievement."

Donations can still be made to the causes via the venture's website at [www.atlanticdash.com](http://www.atlanticdash.com).

## WHAT'S ON in brief

### Friends draw up agenda

**THE** next meeting of Barry&Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, February 7, in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

On the agenda will be a de-briefing from those members who are to meet with Alun Cairns MP on February 3.

Members will want to know the present position on incinerators/Prosiect Gwyrdd and Government subsidies for burning waste.

Rapid development at Rhosse Point and the formation of a new group in Rhosse will also be discussed.

Barry&Vale FoE will be supporting those opposing the White Farm development, at the appeal stage and we are working with the Welsh Assembly in giving evidence to their study of waste issues and incinerators.

Members will be asked to consider a Barry&Vale FoE stall at this year's National Eisteddfod in Llandow.

**Social evening** BRIDGEND County Mayor, Coun Christopher Michaelides, invites the public to a "social evening with a differ-

ence" at the Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend on Wednesday, February 8 from 7pm-10.30pm.

Entertainment includes harpist Angharad Roberts, local girl Lexi Richmond, and the Take Note Choir (under musical director Richard Norton).

There will also be several display and craft stands, as well as a regal travel display.

Admission £8, to include a light buffet; proceeds to local charities.

### Change of date

**CANOLFAN** Porthceri Centre has had to change the meeting date as published here last week.

On Saturday, February 11 cabinet member and chair of the Regeneration Board Rhodri Traherne will chair the meeting in Windsor Road URC (across from the Mount Sorrel).

Tea and coffee will be available from 10am onwards and the meeting will begin at 10.30.

The purpose of the meeting is to gauge support for an arts and cultural centre, and to find a way to make it happen.

## Vale MP's surgeries

**THE** Vale MP, Alun Cairns, will be holding local surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, February 10, at the following locations: 9.30am-11am at Tesco, Stirling Road, Barry; 12.30pm-2pm at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road; 3pm-4.30pm, The Robing Room, Cowbridge Town Hall, Cowbridge.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but it is advisable to call 01446 403814, to make an appointment.

# If Pleasure Park is developed it gives hope that cinema will return to town

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

**THE** Save Our Cinema group believes that the proposed redevelopment of the Pleasure Park on Barry Island is the best hope of bringing back big screen entertainment to the town.

Today, Thursday, February 2, the Vale Council planning committee will consider a recommendation that the estimated £70m scheme, which includes flats, a care home and retail units, along with a cinema, should go ahead.

Bob Armstrong, the chairman of SOCA, said: "The Island looks like the only place in the town with potential."

"I can't see a cinema being located at the Waterfront – there's no space available."

Although there are large buildings available in the town – both the old magistrates court and the Pump House are on the open market – Mr Armstrong explained that multiplex cinema groups favoured building from scratch and independent cinema companies favoured taking over former 'big screen' venues.

He insisted: "If any cinema operator is interested in moving into the area, the Vale Council has to engage with them so they know there's a local commitment."

## CHARITY BOUTIQUE

**DOGS** Trust Bridgend has opened its first charity boutique in Wales at 62 Eastgate, Cowbridge. "It is open every day except Sundays, from 9.30am to 4.30pm; pop down and grab a bargain and help raise pounds for hounds!" a spokeswoman urges.

## LOCAL PACT meetings

**BARUC** neighbourhood officers will be holding surgeries on Sunday, February 5 at Amherst Crescent between 2pm and 4pm and then at Marine Drive between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

**STATHAN** PACT, February 5, at The Gathering Place at 2pm.

**LLANDOUGH** PACT, Llandough War Memorial Hall, February 6 at 7.30pm.

**BUTRILLS** PACT at 6.30pm on Thursday, February 9 at the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, Tynewydd Road.

**LLANDOW/EWENNY** PACT, February 15 at Ewenny Village Hall at 7pm.

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### COUNTER SERVICE



## The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol  
Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

# Caravans wanted, for the Eisteddfod!

**Appeal for caravans**  
DURING the National Eisteddfod, it is estimated that 150,000 people will visit the Festival site. Although we hope that many local people will attend thousands will come from further afield and will be looking for accommodation in the area - in hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfast and also in private accommodation.

Every year, hundreds

of caravanners will also set up home on the Eisteddfod's caravan site, which will be situated next to the Eisteddfod Festival site at Llandow on the outskirts of Cowbridge. Some will bring their own caravans, while others will be looking for caravans to rent for the week.

We have already received numerous requests for caravans from people wishing to stay on the caravan site, but do not have their own caravans to bring. Do you have a touring caravan you could rent to these Eisteddfod visitors for the week?

Could you help the Eisteddfod in this way

and make some money at the same time? If so, please contact the Eisteddfod Office on 02920 763 777 [sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk](mailto:sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk).

### Hire a trade stand

OVER a period of eight days, the 35-acre 'Maes' is home to over 300 stands - shops, businesses, artists, craftspeople, charities, local and national organisations and many more that choose to use the Eisteddfod as their ultimate pop up shop.

The benefits of having a stall at the Eisteddfod last for much longer than the week itself, with

numerous stallholders telling us of the commissions and orders they have received in the months and even years following their visit to an Eisteddfod.

The application forms for hiring a stand at this year's Eisteddfod are now available on the Eisteddfod web site. For further details email Eira B o w e n , [eira@eisteddfod.org.uk](mailto:eira@eisteddfod.org.uk) or pick up the phone for a chat on 02920 763 777.

Eira will be more than happy to assist you with any queries you may have. This is the first time since 1968 that this great national event will visit the Vale so don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of it!

### Apel am garafanau

YN ystod yr Eisteddfod disgwylir i 150,000 ymweld â'r Eisteddfod gyda nifer yn teithio o bob cwr o Gymru a thu hwt ac yn chwilio am lety mewn gwestat, llety hunan arlwy a llety preifat yn yr ardal.

Pob blwyddyn hefyd mi fydd nifer o garafanau yn ymgartrefu ar Faes Carafanau swyddogol yr Eisteddfod fydd yn cael ei lleoli dros nesaf i'r brif Faes yn Llandow ar gyrion y Bontfaen. Fe fydd rhai yn dod a'u carafan eu hunain ond eraill yn chwilio am garafanau i logi am yr wythnos.

Mae'r Eisteddfod wedi derbyn nifer o geisiadau gan bobl sydd yn awyddus i arros ar y Maes carafanau ond heb garafan eu hunain ac

felly yn chwilio am un i logi.

Oes gyda chi garafan y byddwch yn barod i'w logi i Eisteddfodwr am yr wythnos? Fedrwrch chi helpu'r Eisteddfod a gwneud ceiniog neu ddau yr un pryd? Os felly cysylltwch â Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod 02920 763 7 7 7 [sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk](mailto:sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk)

### Llogi stondin

DROS gyfnod o 8 diwrnod, mae'r maes 35 erw yn gartref i dros 300 o stondinau - yn siopau, busnesau, artistiaid, crefftwyr, elusennau a mudiadau lleol a chenedlaethol a llawer mwy sydd yn penderfynu defnyddio'r Eisteddfod fel 'pop up siop' am yr wythnos.

Mae'r budd o gael stondin yn yr Eisteddfod yn bellgyrhaeddol gyda nifer o stondinwyr yn son am yr archebion, comisiynau ac ymholiadau derbyniwyd ganddyn fisoedd ac weithiau blynyddoedd ar ôl ardangos yn yr Eisteddfod.

Mae holl fanlyon y stondinau ynghyd â'r ffurflenni archebu, newydd eu cyhoeddi ar wefan yr Eisteddfod Am Faelyon pellach e bostiwrch Eira Bowen [eira@eisteddfod.org.uk](mailto:eira@eisteddfod.org.uk) neu codwch y ffôn am sgwrs 02920 763 777 - fe fydd Eira yn hapus i ateb unrhyw ymholiadau sydd gyda chi.

Dyma'r tro cyntaf ers 1968 i'r Wyl Genedlaethol yma ymweld â'r Fro felly peidwch â cholli'r cyfle i fod yn rhan ohono.

SIONED EDWARDS

## Council starts countdown to the Eisteddfod

THE countdown has officially begun to the biggest week in Wales' cultural calendar, which will this year be held in the Vale which is to play host to the National Eisteddfod from August 4-11, for the first time in 44 years, at Llandow.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has placed a countdown clock on its website, [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk), to remind residents there's still time to help raise funds for the event, expected to attract 165,000 visitors.

Vale Council leader,

Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "The National Eisteddfod is an internationally-recognised cultural festival that not only celebrates all that is best in Wales, but will also attract large numbers of people to the Vale."

"This is an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the Vale, particularly for the nearby towns of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge."

Visit [http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/enjoying/eisteddfod\\_2012.aspx](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/enjoying/eisteddfod_2012.aspx).

## Young speakers tackle thought-provoking topics



ABOVE: The winning senior team.

FOLLOWING a successful first round of the Young Chef competition, the Rotary Club of Barry organised the Youth Speaks competition at Barry Comprehensive School on January 18.

Teams were made up of a chairperson, speaker and a third person to give the vote of thanks.

This year, the competition moved to national rules, where a talk was given as opposed to a debate.

The speaker also had to answer a question from a member of the audience to show they understood their chosen topic.

In the junior section, four teams were entered; two from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and two from Barry Comprehensive School while in the Senior section

Barry Comprehensive, Bryn

Hafron Comprehensive and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg entered one team each.

The winning junior team comprised Rhiannon Berry, Morwenna Osmond and Betsan Jones from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. Their chosen topic was, 'The Olympics and its influence.'

The prize for the best junior speaker was awarded to John McAllister from Barry Comprehensive School; the prize for the best chairperson was awarded to Rhiannon Berry; and the prize for the best vote of thanks went to Betsan Jones, both from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

In the senior competition, the team from Bryn Hafron took first place, their chosen subject being, 'Play up, play away and play the fool: sports people are not positive role models for the young, and the Olympics not the epitome of sporting prowess and morality.'

The team members were Aimee Delaney, Lissie Wallington and Sarah Jayne Griffiths. The prize for the best

senior speaker was awarded to George Scott from the Barry Comprehensive School, while the prize for best chairperson went to Leah Robinson; and best vote of thanks to Robin Tait - both from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

The judges were Terry Brooks, Graeme Milnes and Gwilym Jones from Cardiff Speaker's Club.

Speaking before the winners were announced, Terry Brookes praised all who those who had taken part and shad et such a high standard for the evening, leaving the judges with some very difficult decisions!

Presenting the prizes, Barry Rotary Club president David Ball congratulated all competitors and thanked everyone for supporting the event and also the Barry Comprehensive School for its hospitality.

The winning teams will now go forward to the district competitions, to be held in the next few weeks.

J.O.

## Society's busy year in Vale

JANUARY 19, saw the first meeting of the year for the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society, at the Six Bells Inn, Penmark.

A hedge cutting event will be staged in the Vale on Sunday, February 19. For details, contact 01446 781229.

A ploughing match will be held on Sunday, September 16. One of the classes will carry a prize of £100.

The committee intends to organise a tractor run in late April or early May to raise funds for the Ed Evans Cancer Appeal, and to support the ploughing match. For details contact 01656 654440.

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D707.

● £2,000: 303850.

● The rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 593031,

276019, 123741, 801695,

240510, 434272, 440594,

875516, 771411, 948634,

462469, 729881, 484772,

255419, 424404, 813582,

229122, 478701, 159876,

168485.

● £5: 295748,

773863, 461784, 336100,

110419, 739834, 843006,

266757, 404367, 500669,

593832, 391409, 452907,

939598, 383944, 953047,

494133, 658751, 886855, 405804, 623773, 639748, 257372, 979837, 906792, 342856, 691021, 463906, 206815, 292498,

462106, 107164, 618899,

746943, 462383, 415953,

363091, 308911, 330007,

812916, 766461, 853790,

209755, 493779, 261700,

518534, 659037, 881063,

730333, 766368, 797899,

743717, 539882, 636368.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

## St Dwynwen gives Eisteddfod a boost



PICTURED: (left to right) Nia Roberts and Alison Huw from the Welsh St Donat's Eisteddfod fundraising committee.

SANTES Dwywnwen Day - the patron saint of Welsh lovers - was celebrated in style on Wednesday, January 25, with a special event organised at Loch Fyne, Cowbridge, to raise money for the National Eisteddfod in the Vale later this year.

The pinnacle of the evening was an auction and tombola of over 100 artworks by the great and the good of the Welsh art scene, together with sketches by famous Welsh celebrities.

Aneurin, Gwilym Pritchard, Claudia Williams, Wilf Roberts, Mary Lloyd Jones and her fellow Radio Cymru presenter Dafydd Du, to Nia Roberts for co-ordinating the donations of artworks and to Miriam, Greta and Arwel for providing the entertainment.

"The chef and staff at Loch Fyne were superb and delivered an excellent meal. Huge thanks to everyone who helped make the evening such a success."

### Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg.

Uchafbwynt y noson oedd ocsiw'n a thombola o dros 100 o weithiau celf gan fawron bydd celf Cymru, gan gynnwys Aneurin, Gwilym Pritchard, Claudia Williams, Wilf Roberts, Mary Lloyd Jones a Mike Jones.

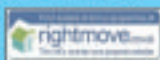
Roedd Sam Warburton, Bryn Terfel, Joe Calzaghe, Nigel Owens, Gavin Henson a'r seren rygbi lleol, Lloyd Williams, ymhlith darluniau at yr achos yn rhad ac am ddim.

Dwyedodd Alison Huw, cadeirydd pwyllgor apel Llandundwyny a'r cych, "Roedd yn noson anhygoel a wnaeth godi dros £3,700, diolch i raddion hael tu hnt gan arlunwyr a sêr enwocaf Cymru."

Mawr yw'n diolch i Caryl Parry Jones a Dafydd Du fu'n llywyddu'r noson, i Nia Roberts am gydlynw'r gweithiau celf ac i Miriam, Greta ac Arwel am ein diddanu. Cawsom wledd yn Loch Fyne a hoffwn ddiolch i'r fawr i'r cogydd a'r staff oll am ei gwneud hi'n achlysur arbennig i ni. Diolch i bawb wnaeth ein cefnogi unwaith yn rhagor."

**Caru Celf wrth Ddathlu Dwywnwen**  
CAFWDYD noson Santes Dwywnwen arbennig iawn yn Loch Fyne, Y Bontfaen, nos Fercher, Ionawr 25. Digwyddiad oedd hi i godi arian tuag at Eisteddfod

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Modern mid linked, show home presented, wc, cloakroom. Living room with stairs rising, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, two designated parking spaces.  
**£129,950**



#### **SEAPPOINT, BARRY**

Far reaching sea views, lower ground floor, 2 bedroomed apartment. Through living room, communal gardens, individual storage shed, Upvc double glazing, electric heating  
**£120,950**



#### **EAST WALK, BARRY**

Extended semi detached, spacious 23ft lounge, sitting room, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms, garage and driveway, enclosed rear garden. Spacious living throughout.  
**£174,950**



#### **EDMUND PLACE, BARRY**

Mid terrace traditional, three bedrooms, two reception rooms, downstairs cloakroom, option of off road parking (subject to the usual planning consent). Enclosed rear garden. In need of modernisation.  
**£99,950**



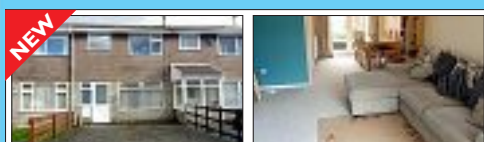
#### **OBAN STREET, BARRY**

Bay fronted traditional two double bedrooms, living/dining room. First floor bathroom. Upvc double glazing, gas central heating via combi. Forecourt area. Situated off Court Road. Ideal first time buy.  
**£109,950**



#### **MIMOSA HOUSE, BARRY**

Well presented ground floor apartment. Westbury built in approx 2004. Two bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. Ensuite bathroom and family bathroom. Two designated parking spaces. No chain.  
**£124,950**



#### **WOODHAM CLOSE, BARRY**

Modern mid terraced. Built approx 30 years. Through living/dining room, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms (originally three bedrooms). Replacement Upvc double glazing, gas central heating via combi. Enclosed rear garden.  
**£124,950**



#### **HEOL ERYR MOR, BARRY**

Two bedrooms. Partial sea views from first floor. Rear modern mid terraced. Ensuite to master, wc, cloakroom. Living room, kitchen/breakfast, garage/parking.  
**£139,950**



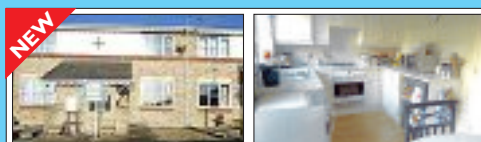
#### **GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY**

Mid terraced traditional. Two reception rooms, original features throughout. Spacious kitchen/breakfast. Upvc double glazing, gas central heating via combi. Basement accessible from garden. Enclosed rear garden.  
**£152,950**



#### **HEOL PILIPALA, RHOOSE POINT**

Modern detached. Built approx 8 years ago. Four bedrooms. Persimmon constructed. Living room/dining, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast, utility room, wc, cloakroom. Garage/driveway.  
**£204,950**



#### **CLOS MANCHELDOWNE, BARRY**

Modern mid linked, cul de sac position. Living room, kitchen/diner, enclosed garden. Driveway providing parking. No chain.  
**£119,950**



#### **ROMILLY AVENUE, BARRY**

Three double bedrooms, semi detached, two spacious reception rooms, original flooring, level, laid to lawn garden, brick built sheds, minutes walk to park and beaches. Viewing recommended.  
**£224,950**



#### **GREENACRES, BARRY**

Two bedrooms, modern mid link, double glazing, gas central heating. Parking spaces. No chain. Vacant possession.  
**£104,950**



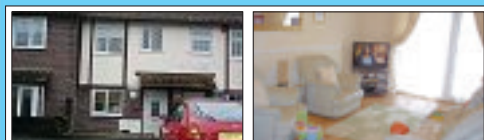
#### **WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY**

Three bedrooms, bay fronted traditional. Living/dining room. Original quarry tiled floor. Tiered garden, level areas of decking and patio. Garage/lane access. Well maintained throughout.  
**£139,950**



#### **BLENHEIM CLOSE, BARRY**

Spacious four bedroomed. Through living room, corner positioned, front, side and rear gardens, wc, cloakroom, garage/parking. Popular location.  
**£229,950**



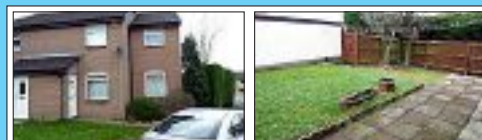
#### **WOODHAM PARK, BARRY**

Modern mid link. Two bedrooms, living room with stairs rising, enclosed garden. Parking to front. No chain. Tenants want to remain.  
**£109,950**



#### **OXFORD STREET, BARRY**

Mid terraced traditional dwelling, two reception rooms, original block flooring, three bedrooms. Rear garden, backing onto Portcullery. Upvc double glazing, gas central heating via combi.  
**£169,950**



#### **HOLLYROOD CLOSE, BARRY**

Extended semi-detached corner position. Three bedrooms, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen. Garage/parking, enclosed rear garden. Viewing highly recommended.  
**£155,000**

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## BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

### Jane and Sean come out on top

**LATEST results  
from Barrivale  
Bridge Club:**

**Tuesday, January 17**  
- First, Jane Brook and Sean MacDougall, 59.03 per cent; second, Judith Owen and Helen Jordan, 56.94; third, Diana Kendrick and Dave Reed, 54.86; Judith and Helen won on handicap.

**Tuesday, January 24**  
- First, Denis Mottram and Mike Close, 63.75 per cent; second, Lewis and Noelle Bond, 57.5; third, Tom Kendrick and Dave Thomas, 55; Judith and Helen won on handicap.

The Adventurers team sallied forth to capture the Four Aces trophy in a recent club teams event.

*New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.*

# Ceri inspires Barry under-9s

CERI Sweeney, the Cardiff Blues' outside-half presented Barry RFC under-9s with their new kit at the Reservoir Fields on Sunday.

A strong and well drilled Pentrych were the visitors, but the Bees were determined to ensure that they showed their illustrious guest what they could do.

Barry took the game to Pentrych from the kick-off, and a series of strong drives through the forwards, with excellent off-loading saw Jacob Pereira open the scoring. This was soon followed by a fine Cole Saunders try.

The Bees defence, led by the tireless Cian Anderson, was outstanding and Pentrych found it difficult to retain possession, such was the intensity of the Barry tackling.

The Bees continued to attack from all areas and after a surging move from their own half, Isaac McBride burst through the last line of defence to make it 3-0.

Jacob then crossed for his second after another combined attack involving forwards and backs. Pentrych dug in and scored a good try to finish the half.

The second half continued in the same pattern, with two further tries from the rampaging Cole, and another sweep-

*Ceri Sweeney lines up with the lads as they don their pristine new kit for the first time.*



ing move finished by James Chapman. Pentrych showed great heart and scored another to make the final score 7-2.

The second match of the morning was against a formidable St Joseph team.

Outside-half Seb Fahiya scored the first from a set move from the scrum, with a show and go that Ceri would have been proud of. The Bees kept up the impetus, but the St Joseph defence was solid, and it took another great move finished by Spencer Williams, to take the score to 2-0 at half time.

St Joseph used the slope to their advantage at the restart and scored a try to bring them back into contention. The Bees

responded with some excellent driving runs through the forwards, particularly Ethan Watkins who again showed his ball carrying strength.

This period of pressure was finished by Rhys Lloyd. St Joseph again responded and their two big ball carriers were beginning to make headway against the tiring Barry defence.

They pulled back another try to close the score again but the Bees were determined to maintain their winning run and summoned a last surge of energy.

Rhys smashed through the defence again, and another coordinated forwards and backs attack was finished by the flying Stephen Williams in

the corner, to take the score to 5-2.

The Bees were now showing the effects of their endeavours, and St Joseph finished the match strongly with two driving tries, to make the final score 5-4.

Stephen Williams was given the best tackler award for his consistently high tackle count, and Harrison Kelly was man of the match, after a great performance out of position. All the team can take pride from another great performance, and both Charlie Bale and Morgan Taylor continued to develop and contribute positively to the overall team performance.

Despite the cold it was a great morning, with the boys thoroughly enjoying themselves; and a

massive thank you must go to Ceri Sweeney for giving his time to present the new kit kindly donated by Admiral and Confused.dot.com, and then to stay and watch; after this performance we will want him to come every week!

Anyone interested in joining the Bees should contact team manager John Bale on 07870419691 or visit the team website [www.pitchero.com/clubs/barryrfcminisjuniors](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/barryrfcminisjuniors).

*Team: Isaac McBride, Jacob Pereira, Rhys Lloyd, Charlie Bale, Ethan Watkins, Morgan Taylor, Cole Saunders, Stephen Williams, Seb Fahiya, Harrison Kelly, Cian Anderson, James Chapman, Stephen Williams.* **JM**

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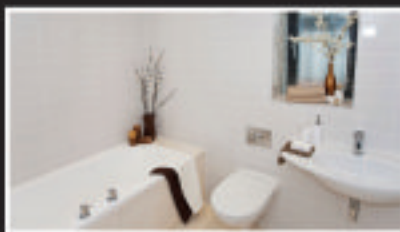
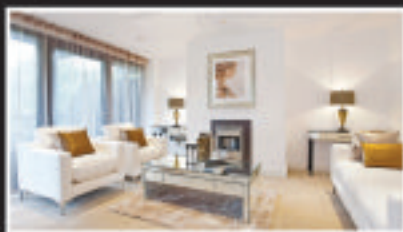
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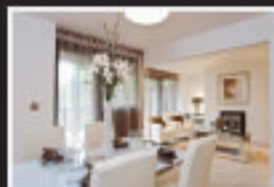
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## Public Notices

**NOTICE**  
**Bridgend Lifesavers' Credit Union Ltd**  
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Martin Hughes, Secretary, on behalf of Board of Directors  
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# GEM Family Notices

## Birthday Wishes

**Happy 50th Birthday Ray Thomas**  
on 4th February  
*Hope you have a wonderful day.*  
Love you loads - Julia, Lowri, Chlöe, James, Gareth, Mum and Dad and Val  
x x x

**Happy 18th Birthday BECKI**  
on February 8.  
Lots of love,  
Nainy & Ganky.  
XXX



## Family Notices

**CREAMER Michael Paul**  
Passed away 27th January 2012, at St Joseph's Convent Nursing Home, after a long illness, aged 75 years.  
Dearly loved and sadly missed by wife Joan, children Sandy, Marc and Donna, grandchildren and all his family and friends.  
Requiem Mass on Friday 3rd February at 2 p.m. at St Patrick's Church, Stafford, followed by cremation at Stafford Crematorium.  
Family flowers only, donations to the Alzheimer's Society. Enquiries to W Emery & Sons Tel. 01785 251205

**Kathleen Nixon**  
John and family wish to thank relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy shown during their recent sad loss of Kathy, also for the many cards and messages that they have received and for the donations to the British Lung Foundation.  
Special thanks to Lyndsay Ellis and staff of Park Independent Funeral Directors and the staff at Llandough Hospital for their consideration and help.

**WILLIAMS Betty (Née Apjohn)**  
Suddenly on 23 January 2012, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Dearly loved wife of the Reverend Norman Williams, sister to the late Mary Evans, much loved mother of Jeanne and David, loving mother-in-law of David and Sian, special Nana of Ella, Mari, Iwan and Thomas.  
Service at the Church of St John the Baptist, Llanblethian, Cowbridge on Friday, February 3 at 12.45pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only.

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**Ellie Mawby**  
**Happy 18th Birthday**  
3rd February  
Congratulations and best wishes, love from Richard, Pam, Chris, Martyn, Vicki and Grandma. XXX

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# What's on and where in your area

## Eisteddfod fundraiser

A 'MURDER' is committed at the Eisteddfod and the public are being asked to help to solve the crime at Illtud's 216 restaurant, Llantwit Major on February 9 at 6.30pm. Pupils from Llantwit Major School, guided by drama teacher Natalie Richards, will render assistance.

Three-course meal and entertainment, £25 per person; contact Illtud's 216 on 01446 796489.  
More information and menu on [www.illtuds216.co.uk](http://www.illtuds216.co.uk).  
Places limited, please book early!

**Abstract art demo**  
COWBRIDGE Art Society will meet on Thursday, February 9 at 7pm at the Old Hall, Cowbridge when Cardiff artist Graham Phillips will give a demonstration and an introduction to abstract art.

Non members are welcome to attend.  
For more details of the society go to [www.cowbridgeartsociety.com](http://www.cowbridgeartsociety.com).  
Donations, cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received. Volunteers required on sale day and to help organise the sales. Proceeds in aid of The National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch (formerly Bridgend, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major branch) to train three breastfeeding counsellors and two antenatal teachers.

Visitors to <http://www.nct.org.uk/in-your-area/southwales> or find us on Facebook; search 'NCT Vale & Valleys'.

## Author inspires young writers



ABOVE: Dan signed books, footballs and cards and chatted to pupils and staff after his presentation.

'STRIVE to achieve your dreams'; 'Never give up' - and 'Believe in yourself'. These were the three clear messages for the Barry Comprehensive School's year-7 pupils - during an exciting presentation by football writer and young people's author, Dan Freedman.

Pupils listened attentively as Dan took us on his journey from school-boy football fanatic to accomplished author. He shared with us video footage of his World Cup interviews with Steven Gerrard, Theo Walcott, Wayne Rooney and David Beckham. A glimpse of the football superstar Rio Ferdinand as a 'real' person chatting to Dan over a game of pool was fascinating.

He's just as competitive off the pitch as on the pitch and it is that drive to win that has ensured his success. Dan not only writes eloquently about the beautiful game, but about the 'ups' and 'downs' of everyday life for teenager Jamie Johnson, a boy with a dream. Dan can captivate the imagination of his readers and this was certainly the case during his presentation. Pupils were given tips on how to describe accurately the atmosphere at a football match or the path of a winning goal. Back in the classroom, I am sure that our budding year-7 writers will remember his inspiring words.

## BARRY RFC RUGBY ROUND-UP

## Seconds overcome elements to record impressive victory

**BARRY RFC XV**  
Returned to league action on a bitterly cold Wednesday night in rain-swept Taffs Well.

With a number of late withdrawals, veteran Andy Moffat was retained in the second row, joining last minute addition Darren Deguara.

Joe Gallivan started at scrum-half while Alyn Evans moved from centre to hooker.

Barry were the first team to get to grips with the tricky conditions, as Adam Lee's boot sent them deep into the opposition twenty-two.

Their enterprise was rewarded when Lee earned three points after converting a penalty opportunity as the home side infringed in the contact area. That was not the last time the referee's whistle was heard.

With the elements slightly in the away side's favour, the green-and-whites continued to push. After some strong ball-carrying from the forwards, most notably

from Alyn Evans, Thomas and Deguara, scrum-half Gallivan utilised his back-line to find Luke Bounds at the end of a flowing move, via the hands of David Williams and Provis, to ground in the corner; Lee was unable to add the extras.

Taffs Well were getting no change from a resolute Barry defence, with Lee Jones, Deguara and Poole particularly outstanding with their tackle counts.

Instead the away side piled forward again, and it was the hooker Evans' turn to score near the posts. Lee made no mistake with his boot this time.

The new-found centre partnership of Provis and Williams were proving too hot to handle for the home side, and when their forward momentum was taken on by Owain Poole for an unconverted score, the game seemed to be all but over.

Taffs Well, however, did rally late into the first half, and they took full advantage of Jones' sin-binning to reduce the deficit by a converted try.

Barry attempted to reverse the momentum by bringing on Bowditch, Hewitson and Hollister, but their attempts were hampered by yet another yellow card, this time to the captain Rolfe. Once again the home side took advantage, this time with an unconverted score.

The hosts now had the wind in their sails and were sensing an unlikely comeback, as their fly-half utilised the elements and the high ball – both of which Barry struggled to contain.

With that in mind, the away side kept the ball with their powerful forwards, with Evans and Hollister almost setting up Provis for a superb try.

After Luke Booker had been brought on for his debut, Alyn Evans had the chance to increase his side's lead with a penalty opportunity, but his kick was botched.

Moments later, however, Barry did increase their lead and in doing so earned a bonus point, as David Williams pounced on a home handling error to score his third try of the season. Booker bisected the posts with his conversion.

Taffs Well did have the last say when they scored in the corner with the last play of the game, but the night belonged to the away side, who battled well all evening against the elements.

**Team:** Alex Evans; Richie Williams, Dave Provis, Dave Williams, Luke Bounds; Joe Gallivan, Adam Lee; Andy Houldey, Alyn Evans, Jason Thomas; Andy Moffat, Darren Deguara; Lee Jones, Owain Poole, Nick Rolfe (c).

**Subs used:** Luke Hewitson, Luke Booker, Sam Bowditch, James Hollister.

**Man-of-the-match:** Deguara.

**Llanishen Second XV v Barriars**  
The Barriars were soundly beaten in this tough away fixture against Llanishen.

With many players unavailable or fatigued after Wednesday night's fixture, it was always going to be a difficult task to face up to a well-organised outfit away from home.

The disorganised arrival of the away team was reflected in the first half performance in which Llanishen ran riot against a patched up Barriars' defence.

The set pieces did give player-manager Ken Chow some positives, with the front row dominating in the scrum and the line-out functioning well with the available again Dave Hosking directing matters.

Unfortunately, the tackling was substandard for most of the half,

despite some decent individual performances, most notably from David Williams, Hosking and Owain Poole.

Chow made ruthless changes on half-time and brought on an array of substitutes, with all of them making a difference, particularly in the breakdown area.

Owain Poole had a great chance early in the second half when he broke through with the line in his sights, only to be tackled just short when he could have passed onto the supporting Kyle Rendall.

Llanishen found the going tougher in the second period as the defensive work by the Barriars' line improved, especially after the introduction of Cieran Thomas, who was returning from long term injury.

Chow finally introduced himself into the match in the foreign

position of full-back but he barely made an impact as the away side continued to struggle for possession.

Centre David Williams did finally manage a consolation score as his strong run was rewarded with a try in the corner. Substitute Ethan Dix bisected the posts perfectly from a seemingly impossible angle.

Ultimately the game was lost but in the second half the away side at least put up a fight and the players can return home with their heads held high.

**Team:** T. Poole; Boffy; D. Williams, M. Jones, Jenkins; R. Williams, Lee; J. Thomas, Hosking, Houldey; Lundy, Hall; L. Jones, O. Poole, Rolfe.

**Subs used:** Rendall, Summerhayes, C. Thomas, Dix, Chow.

**Man-of-the-match:** D. Williams.

KC

## Atoms face double action

**BARRY Atoms under-9s put the disappointment of last week very quickly behind them against a well drilled St. Josephs side.**

The Atoms' scored first, with a great team effort leading to a Jack Couch try but good pressure from St. Josephs brought a quick try to level.

The game then went back and forth with some real ferocious tackling from both these young sides.

Atoms pressure brought about a scrum which lead to a great try from E. Galsworthy, but strong running brought about another St. Josephs try.

This was quickly answered by the Atoms as E. Galsworthy, J. Williams and D. Griffiths scored, with a

late try by St. Josephs seeing out the game.

The final score was: Atoms 5, St. Josephs 3

The Atoms then faced Penrych. Atoms came out with real intent and scored quickly through Jack Reid, but Penrych then scored three unanswered tries; another try by Jack Reid saw out the first half.

There was more great team play and a few brilliant runs, but unfortunately Atoms paid their opponents a bit too much respect and Penrych scored the only try of the half, for a final score of Atoms 2, Penrych 4

**Squad:** T. Pugh, M. Boffy, J. Jones, J. Couch, R. Rendell, J. Parry, C. Denbury, E. Galsworthy, Z. Ffield, D. Griffiths, F. Samad, I. Escott, J. Williams, D. Wall, J. Reid, G. Mitchem.

DD

## Dinas Powys under-19s turn on style to go top of the league!

**DINAS POWYS under-19s produced an excellent attacking display to beat last season's league champions, Cwmbran Celtic Youth.**

The first 10 minutes saw quite an even game, with both sides creating a few half chances.

The Dinas lads were playing up the slope and the back four of Hopkins, Bruce, Davies and Lazarou were dealing well with a more direct Cwmbran team.

Dinas broke the deadlock when Briscoe and was brought down by a Cwmbran defender and he stepped up to rifle home – 1-0.

Cwmbran hit back within a minute when a cross from the left beat the Dinas' defence and allowed a Cwmbran player to tap home. The Dinas boys forced several corners; the pressure eventually told and Rhys Davies headed home.

With only seconds to half-time, it looked as if a Cwmbran forward was offside. To the spectators' amazement, the linesman didn't flag and Cwmbran equalised to make the half time score 2-2.

In the second half, Dinas scored four quick goals from Parsons, Cleary, Driscoll – a superb individual effort – and Dimitri Fallas to kill off the game.

**Cwmbran Celtic Youth Dinas Powys**

**3 6**

To their credit Cwmbran kept battling until the end and were rewarded with a very dubious penalty, to make the final score 6-3.

A special mention goes to 'keeper Kieron Sharratt, who played through a hip injury and

made some great saves. Man of the match goes to Joe Briscoe.

He showed not just the talent but the work rate and commitment that will make him a regular first team player in the near future.

## Cwmnic romps home at 6/1!

**VALE trainer Bryn Palling had a welcome winner at Wolverhampton last week when his six-year-old bay mare Cwmnic, partnered by Luke Morris, came home one-and-three-quarter lengths ahead of Look For Love at odds of 6-1.**

At Ffos Las on Sunday, Llanrcarfan's Evan Williams won the opening maiden hurdle with seven-year-old Charm School who, ridden by 5lb claimer Adam Wedge, scored by eight lengths from Seventh Sky.

Brian Lee

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Could it be an unmarked police vehicle? You never know these days. No more 4x4s sitting on your tail that's for sure, as the drivers notice a chunky exhaust pipe on either side at the rear.

But, of course, the driver has to resist the temptation to sit on the tail of the car in front.

The only other concern is that this highly desirable motor could be a target for thieves. However, there are so few Evos about that it surely wouldn't be too hard to find again.

To put this sub-£40,000 brute in perspective, it will hit 60mph from standstill in just five seconds, placing it in AMG Mercedes, BMW M-series and even the £240,000 Bentley Continental GTC turbo territory.

As with the above, it's when the two-litre turbo, 290bhp Evo is stuck behind a tractor, a lorry and a dithering old age pensioner that it really comes into its own.

The acceleration is so awe-some that it will propel you in complete safety.

"It's like a scalded cat," commented a work colleague. He's not wrong. Push the accelerator down and aside from the massive adrenaline rush, the landscape suddenly becomes a blur, too.

The force generated is comparable to taking off in an aircraft, pushing the driver (and occupants) right back in their seats.

That's without engaging sports mode! The all-wheel drive Evo ensures that the magnificent power range is equally distributed between each wheel, while Brembo brakes competently stop it when required. There are tar-mac, gravel and snow functions, too.

No surprise that this is one of the most successful rally cars alongside the Subaru Impreza. A smooth six-speed auto allows the driver to concentrate on the road but for added driving pleasure there are very easy to use paddle-shifts.

Pleasingly, there's a traditional handbrake - for complete control - rather than a switch as is often the case these days. As with most muscle cars these days the Evo is limited to 155mph.

Surprisingly, you don't need to drive this vehicle fast to thoroughly enjoy it, though. Cruise around town and the tone of the exhaust and its eye-catching design is enough to stop any

passer-by in their tracks. Its rakish, purposeful and imposing looks mean that the Evo has immense road presence as it rumbles along and generates many lustful looks from other motorists, too.

It tackles the motorway with ease and longer journeys improve fuel economy. Surprisingly, there's no cruise control, but it doesn't matter - you have to be light with your right foot because if you're not you'll lose your licence.

It is suffice to say that an Evo driver sitting in their incredibly comfortable and supportive bucket seat feels as safe and secure as possible knowing that they are in a highly capable sports car.

That rocket-like power doesn't need to be used but just knowing that it's there is comforting. You know that it will get you out of trouble if required.

Strangely, when the Evo's ignition is turned off, the engine continues to run on for a little while afterwards - but this adds to its character.

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# GEM sport

## WALES QUIETLY CONFIDENT, BUT WARY OF IRISH BACKLASH IN SIX NATIONS OPENER

**P**REDICTING the winner of a Six Nations tournament is a notoriously difficult (and some would say, pointless) exercise which, for this writer at least, is best left to others who feel more qualified in the media – for it is fraught with so many imponderables.

Individual form, fitness, and availability are just three of the purely physical elements to be taken into account – never mind the far more obscure mental and emotional factors that can have a crucial bearing on a team's performance on any given match day – and about which those outside the camp can know nothing.

Only one thing is certain, as the Six Nations kicks off this weekend – all of these concerns will be weighing heavily

on the minds of those who ARE in the know – the head coaches. After all, that is why they earn the big bucks!

Those casting around for clues to the eventual outcome can, of course, point to last year's tournament and on this basis, gifted but unpredictable France (who, against the odds, also made the final of the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand) are again the bookies' favourites.

In fact, though, it is not quite as simple as that.

Judged purely on recent Six Nations results, Wales could again expect to finish fourth in the table – but that would mean ignoring the profound transformation that has taken place since then in the Welsh psyche – as evidenced in that physically awesome performance against Ireland in the RWC quarter final – and also

the heroic 14-man display that almost brought victory over France in the dramatic semi-final.

After so many long years in the rugby wilderness, buoyant fans are justified in their growing optimism; though with such a relatively small playing base to draw on, the Welsh camp will be keen to dampen expectations – particularly in the light of a mounting injury toll (possibly affecting up to a third of the World Cup team).

Head coach Warren Gatland has sounded an optimistic yet cautionary note, pointing out that in the last four years, the tournament had been won by four different nations:

"We had a good Rugby World Cup. It was great – but this Six Nations is wide open and we don't want to let ourselves

down," he said.

Harking back to the stunning 22-10 victory over Ireland in Wellington, the quietly-spoken Kiwi added: "We had done our homework for that RWC match, but I'm expecting a backlash" (in their opening Six Nations clash in Dublin on Sunday).

He is right to be wary, for there is no doubt that the Irish, boosted by the impressive showing of their top three regions in Europe, will be determined to avenge that crushing blow to their pride.

Paul O'Connell, acting skipper in the absence of the injured Brian O'Driscoll, made Irish intentions crystal clear in the countdown to renewed hostilities between these two arch Celtic rivals: "There is no doubt that there's an edge to it... It's a tough rivalry... Some of the games

have been brilliant, high intensity, physical encounters.

"We lost to the Welsh in the quarter final of the World Cup because we didn't play to our potential, and paid the price. We can't afford to make a slow start against Wales on Sunday."

If that match is key to both teams' title hopes, so too is the other needle encounter on Saturday in Edinburgh, when the Scottish dark horses take on the 'auld enemy' England, now resurrected under 'caretaker' coach Stuart Lancaster – after the unfortunate Martin Johnson's demise in the wake of World Cup failure and players' off-field misdeeds.

Another prominent managerial casualty at 'HQ', Andy Robinson, now masterminding Scotland, has turned up the heat on his old team by stating that the Scots had let

a priceless victory slip through their fingers against England in their RWC group match. Some of the English players, he said, had "disrespected" Scotland: "Their disrespect took many forms and it builds up. In the end, it undermined Martin Johnson as manager," Robinson added with feeling.

Saturday also sees favourites France open their campaign under new coach Philippe Saint-Andre against long-odds Italy (who also have a new coach, Frenchman Jacques Brunel) but cannot afford to take them lightly, after being stunned by the Azzurri in the last Six Nations.

It all goes to reinforce Gatland's belief that "the 2012 Six Nations is wide open".

So, let battle commence and may the best team win – hopefully, Wales, of course! (SEE PAGE 12)

## BARRY UNDER-14s RACK UP THE POINTS



ABOVE: Barry RFC under-14s line up with opponents Beddau RFC under-14s and their team sponsor, Lyndon Smith from LDS Motor Factors. Both teams are extremely grateful for Lyndon's continued support. Despite a valiant effort from the hosts, Barry were winners of this encounter racking up 57 points to no reply, with tries from Ben Dwyer, Morien Evans, Scott Griffith (2), Sam Green, Josh Kemp, Lloyd James and Tom Winter (2). Conversions: Ben Morgan-Brownhill (6). IE

## Barry RFC make progress in Bowl after a good away win

**ANOTHER** round of the SWALEC Bowl competition saw Barry travel to Blackweir last weekend.

This game was to decide which team would take a place in the last sixteen of the competition. An interesting feature was that the referee, who was being assessed by a WRU official, was 'miked up' – technology comes to the lower echelons of the game!

Under a wintry sun and on a progressively cold afternoon, both sides started tentatively. The initial skirmishes featured a Barry side preoccupied with switching the ball inside at every opportunity.

A dogged St Josephs' defence coped with such tactics comfortably. The home side were unlucky when, after five minutes play, a well-stuck penalty rebounded from the woodwork into the welcoming arms of a Barry defender.

Whether it was the prevailing weather or the underfoot conditions, both teams were having the utmost difficulty maintaining any continuity of play.

The visitors were finding possession difficult to come by and rarely managed any time in the St Josephs' half during the period. On a rare foray, they did gain the lead with an easy penalty by Lee from twenty metres.

The home team were

**St. Josephs RFC 3pts  
Barry RFC 15pts**

able to level the score line, courtesy of poor defending by the Barry back division. This penalty brought the conclusion to a very disjointed and hardly entertaining first half.

The second period commenced with St Josephs visibly tiring and making elementary mistakes, with kicks regularly flying direct into touch. Not only did this give Barry possession, but also the knowledge that their opponents were struggling.

The visiting pack did not need any prompting as they took charge of proceedings. During this

period there were valuable contributions from Evans and Jones in the forwards and Provis and Lee behind. With ten minutes elapsed, Lee put the visitors ahead with a penalty from twenty metres.

Further pressure from a resurgent pack set up an opportunity for Lee to stretch the lead with another penalty. Barry's forward domination, based on a front row of Hunt, Evans and Hollister, was now creating lots of problems for St Josephs.

After some further pressure play, Lee slotted over a fine penalty

from forty metres. While he needed the assistance of a bounce from an upright, it was just reward for good aggressive play. At this stage the home team made a belated response and put the Barry tacklers under strain for a considerable period.

To the credit of this unit they were up to the task; not least a makeshift No.8 in Provis who was pressed into forward service following another avoidable yellow card! A further long-range penalty by Lee completed the score line for Barry. Five successful penalties in such treacherous underfoot conditions was a commendable effort.

Barry: Ryan, Adams, Busitil, Provis, Evans,

Hardy, Lee, Hunt, Evans, Hollister, McTavish, Deguara, Parker, O'Sullivan, Jones, © Subs. Gallivan, Chukas, Bowditch, King.

Barry's next fixture is at home against Abercwmboi on Saturday, February 11 with kick-off at 2.30pm.

CO

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